

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

April 20, 2021

Vestry Members Present – Sara Ceresa, Faith Cirre, Phil Eschels, Gaylee Gillim, David Holzknicht, Teri McDonald, David Niehaus, Gibbs Reese, Hannah Savells – (Youth), John Shelby, Bill Shory, Speed Stodghill, Rhody Streeter and Peggy Woolley.

Others Present – Edie Nixon, Treasurer.

Absent – Troy Petrie and Rev. Benjamin Hart, Director of Congregational Life.

Clergy & Staff – The Rev. Kelly Kirby, Rector

Opening Prayer – Rev. Kirby opened the meeting at 6:15 with the traditional prayer and noted that a quorum was in attendance.

Reading/Reflection – David Holzknicht offered these comments based on actions taken in our society several hours before this meeting. In Minneapolis, police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of all charges in the death of George Floyd. Certainly, these continue to be incredibly challenging times within our society on many fronts for African Americans, those persons charged with maintaining law and order in these disquieting times and all in between. In reflecting back several thousands of years, examples of being sequestered in various societies were used as an example where ignorance was to blame for deeds of others. Today the question continues as to how we can come together again to respect and support the attributes of all persons while lifting up those less fortunate than ourselves.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the March 16, 2021 meeting were accepted as written with a correction that the next meeting date for the Stewardship Committee will be May 2nd and not March 21st as indicated.

Financial Report – Edie Nixon provided highlights for each of the following March 31st reports as follows:

Balance Sheet:

- a. Perhaps for the first time on record, we have more operating cash than ever before, this partially due to receipt of the two PPP Loans with a combined value of \$189,200. Additionally, she reported that the first loan has been forgiven and anticipates the second loan will be forgiven in early 2022.
- b. The construction loan, with a current balance of approximately \$483,000, should be paid in full by the end of this month.

Income Statement:

- a. Another particularly good month for income as it appears that many members are contributing both pledge dollars and plate offerings earlier than requested. At this point, we are approximately \$39,500 ahead of our projected income.

b. Operating expenses were excellent during the month with the exception of the snowstorm, requiring an expenditure of \$5,400 for clearing of sidewalks, driveways, parking areas and the like.

Endowment Report

As the end of March was the conclusion of the first quarter of the calendar year, a status report of these funds was presented. The invested money for the quarter grew almost \$100,000 for the period to a total value of nearly \$1,300,000. Edie then went into further clarification relating to the various sub-fund accounts and the processes for distribution of funds to support the work of each fund. The first and foremost goal is to not use any of these funds for the operation and maintenance of our facilities and campus. Unless there is a special project and, if so, 75% of the vestry must approve said allocation request.

On a motion made by Rhody Streeter with second by Gaylee Gillim, the financial report was accepted, subject to audit.

Outdoor Chapel

A longtime member of the parish, Mr. Bill Brown has approached the Rector about developing an area for outdoor services and is prepared to gift the church \$5,000 towards creation of same. His inspiration has been the chapel at All Saints Conference Center. Lively, pro-active conversation followed. It was agreed that Kelly would make arrangements for a site visit to explore further Bill's thoughts in the presence of herself, Steve Cherry and Gibbs Reese to gather more information and discuss optional sites and the like including furniture, acoustics and ease of access. More to follow.

Vestry Committee Liaison Reports

- **Building and Grounds** – Much has been accomplished since our last report. In no particular order 1). the new directional sign has been installed at the intersection of US 42 (Brownsboro Road) and Hubbard's Lane, 2), several tree stumps have been removed, 3), light fixture bulb replacements in several areas that may require new control boards before actual installation can occur, 4), designs underway for installation of small workspace behind pulpit to support the transmission of church services, 5), new camera equipment underway and the like. With regards to the grounds, as the property continues to age, there is a greater need for routine maintenance and clean-up of the landscape. A request will be made for financial assistance to obtain the services of a landscape company to support the efforts of the faithful congregational landscape "team".
- **Dimensions of Faith** – Gaylee reported that the group met on April 11TH to discuss future speakers. A goal is to begin having more guest speakers in the fall when hopefully further COVID restrictions will be lifted and these speakers can be comfortably scheduled.
- **Finance** – Presented herein.
- **Nominating Committee** – No report.
- **Outreach** – Will meet again in May. Food deliveries continue on a monthly basis rather than the previously scheduled quarterly basis.
- **Planned Giving** – Scheduled to meet May 3rd.

- Stewardship - Will meet again on May 2nd. There is a need to find a chairperson for this group plus at least several new members. Also, this entity needs to become much more visible within the congregation.
- Vision Implementation Team – Met last week to further review and expand upon the three goals established for the 2021 – 2025 period. Also are documenting all the socially responsible gatherings, events and the like to further clarify the activities and progress made within these areas over the goals of the previous five-year period.

Wardens' Reports

- Senior Warden Phil Eschels. Happy to see that the "doors" are beginning to open further and the corresponding opportunities for more rental income. "Feels Good". Acknowledged the great effort put forth during Easter week. Thoroughly enjoyed the Youth Service.
- Junior Warden Speed Stodghill – Shared Phil's points above. Also pleased with the work being done by the Building & Grounds Committee.

Rector's Report

Rev. Kirby spoke to the three (3) items below.

- 1.) Would like to do a personal congregational poll related to further opening of the church to parishioners for services and the like. Note - Received Vestry approval to do same.
- 2.) Bishop White will officiate the service on May 23rd for a modified service including multiple confirmations. Due to the number of these confirmations, there will be limited seating available. More to come.
- 3.) Work with the Collegeville Grant continues during Benjamin's sabbatical.

Theological Reflection – Rev. Kirby reminded us that during these troubled times we need to continue to have compassion for others.

Compline - David Holzknecht led us electronically followed by adjournment of the meeting at 7:55 PM.

NOTE: For record purposes, this meeting was held in a voice video-conferencing format (Zoom) in compliance with national regulations established by our federal government during the nationwide COVID-19 epidemic.

Respectfully submitted,



Gibbs Reese, Secretary

