

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2017

Present: Senior Warden- Linda Drummond, Junior Warden – Dave Monroe, Treasurer- Chris Bartlett, Clerk– Mattie Gustafson, Christian Myers, Trish Culver, Chris Barker, Paul Westrom, Steve Downing and the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

Absent: Michelle Freitas, Jenny Williams, Peter Collins, Dave Ferkinhoff

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:07 p.m. with prayer and a Bible study of Acts, Chapter 12.

“Living in this New Way”

Linda D. began the meeting with a presentation of a proposed different way of approaching Vestry meetings. We are using a new kind of agenda tonight with the goals of 1) better efficiency and use of our time, and 2) an effort to spend more time on what we are called to do.

Some elements of this “new way” include – putting more routine reports under the Consent Agenda, eliminating the Senior Warden’s report entirely, and including more spirit-oriented agenda items, e.g., Discipleship, Mission and Leadership, as a matter of course and priority. Catch-All – at the end – will be just that, a time to discuss other important issues that we may have missed.

Linda also suggested we include an offering of cheese and crackers, or other kinds of munchies, to alleviate loss of energy due to low blood sugar, but there seemed to be no enthusiasm for this suggestion. Jennifer suggested we bring food as we feel moved by the Spirit to do so!

Consent Agenda

Paul W. made a motion, seconded by Chris Bartlett, that we accept the Consent Agenda, which included the Minutes and Treasurer’s Report. The motion passed.

Rector’s Time

Jennifer is learning a lot about the “business” of the church! And Melanie, our part-time temporary Administrative Assistant is being very helpful.

Restructuring our Administrative Staff

The Restructuring Team, Chris Barker, Jennie Williams and Steve Downing, met last Saturday. Linda D. and Jennifer also attended this first meeting. The team is taking an in-depth look at the job description for the Parish Administrator and hope to finalize this

description shortly. They will actually be interviewing candidates for the position even before the description is finalized.

Much has been taken out of the job description already:

- Bookkeeping has been removed and will be handled for the next year, *gratis*, by Chris Bartlett's firm, xxxxxxxx. This is a great gift to St. Mary's Church!
- All stewardship and pledge record-keeping has been transferred to the Stewardship Commission and the Pledge Clerk, Lauren Lema. Duties of the Pledge Clerk include answering questions, data entry, sending out statements – all of which must be handled with the utmost confidentiality.

Going forward, we might need to look more closely at our counting system – counting and database entry should be separate – also for purposes of confidentiality.

Paul W. asked about the website. He pointed out that our online presence is how many folks look for a church. The website needs to be up-to-date and well designed.

The Restructuring Group is also looking at the issue of a “welcoming presence” in the front office.

Lent

Lent begins next Wednesday. Vestry members are urged to participate in the Wednesday services and to look forward to the last week in Lent, as well as attending the Triduum.

Jennifer and Stephanie have planned some neat things for Lent based on the *Living the Compass* workshop that Jennifer attended a while ago.

1. Retreat on Spiritual Practices on March 11th from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. We are planning to charge \$10/person, to cover the cost of lunch and supplies
2. Preaching series during Lent will focus on the compass theme
3. Prayer partners will be set up.

Property Report – Dave Monroe

The Sarah Gibbs Trustees are looking into risks and liabilities that might be involved in Jim Farrar's latest proposal. Jeff Belden would like some money to proceed with this investigation. Dave M. made a motion, seconded by Steve D. that we authorize a \$500 seed fund advance for the trustees use to conduct their necessary due diligence. The motion passed. These funds will come out of the Property Commission's budget.

After much discussion about what exactly was going on and the amount of time it seems to have taken for anything to be accomplished, Paul Westrom made a motion, seconded by

Linda D. that we arrange a meeting for all interested parties: Jim Farrar, the Sarah Gibbs Trustees, members of the Vestry, our attorney, Eric Chappelle and Rich Sayer, Chancellor of the Diocese, to discuss Jim Farrar's proposal. The motion passed.

Steve D. made a motion, seconded by Chris Barker, that we designate Christian Myers an official liaison between the Sarah Gibbs Trustees and the Vestry. This motion passed.

Discipleship

Renewal Works

This was our major project in 2016 and we need to go forward, exploring ways to implement the report's recommendations. Jennifer will slant her energy and planning towards the goals discussed in the *Renewal Works* final report. It might be a good idea to talk to Michelle F. and Bev H. for their views on going forward. The Vestry is urged to re-read the report.

Visions for the 10:30 Worship Service

Everyone on the Vestry seems to see re-envisioning the 10:30 service as an important step for our church, and Jennifer indicated that she cannot do this re-formation on her own. We need to convene a group that shares a vision for this service and are willing to work on implementing this vision.

The Vestry then had an open discussion about elements they thought might be important to look at. These elements included:

- Music should be accessible, sing-able and familiar
- We should encourage kids to pray and assume kids will be there
- There should be more visuals – banners, hangings, etc.
- Perhaps more guest preachers – from outside the church and even members of the congregation
- Drama and skits in place of the sermon
- Psalm should be read – in some kind of creative reading?
- Bread vs. wafer – most liked bread?

It was decided to continue this conversation at our next Vestry meeting, as a number of Vestry members who might want to express thoughts and ideas were not present tonight.

Leadership

Jennifer gave a short presentation on communication from *Beyond Business As Usual*.

Catch-All

Database

Chris Barker is recommending that we subscribe to (\$200-400 annually), a database called *Ministry Scheduler Pro*. This will allow all scheduling – of lectors, LEMs, coffee hour hosts, etc. to be done online. It is an excellent way to streamline the process and make it easy to update, etc.

Chris Barker has volunteered to set this up for us.

Follow up Action Item

Christian Myers will be responsible for setting up the date for the proposed Trustee – Vestry – Attorney – Farrar, etc., meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. with a prayer.

**The day and time of our next Vestry meeting is
Thursday March 23rd at 6:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk