

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
March 30, 2017

**Present:** Senior Warden- Linda Drummond, Junior Warden – Dave Monroe, Treasurer- Chris Bartlett, Clerk– Mattie Gustafson, Christian Myers, Michelle Freitas, Jenny Williams, Dave Ferkinhoff, Chris Barker, Peter Collins, Paul Westrom, Steve Downing and the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

**Absent:** Trish Culver

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with prayer and a Bible study of Acts, Chapter 13.

**Consent Agenda**

Dave M. 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 made a motion, seconded by Dave F. to allow Karin Larsen to give an extra piano that St. Mary's has, to a family who needs one. Motion passed.

Jennifer handed out a written report. One highlight in this report was the outline of a new, proposed summer worship service schedule. Discussion continues.

Much discussion was had around the topic of the consultant and his results and report, and the issue of a Vestry retreat, with or without the consultant. It was the consensus of the Vestry that there were still issues and systems that needed to be discussed and attended to. Christian Myers expressed a desire for some kind of written report of the consultant's findings and conclusions.

Jennifer will ask the consultant for some kind of written report to be handed in by April 6<sup>th</sup> – which is the date of the planning meeting to be held to discuss and plan the Vestry retreat. Peter Collins agreed to be the convener of this planning session. Paul W., Linda D., and Dave F. will work with Peter to formulate plans for this retreat. Other Vestry members are urged to send Peter their thoughts on what this retreat should be about and why. Please put "retreat" in the subject line when emailing Peter with your ideas.

[The Vestry went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.]

Jennifer encouraged all Vestry members to attend services during Holy Week. If you would like to help or participate, please let Jennifer know.

## **Property Report – Dave Monroe**

### *Jim Farrar and the OPH*

Chris Myers handed out a written report to the Vestry about the ongoing issue with Jim Farrar and his various proposals to the Trustees and the Vestry. The bottom line is that both the Trustees and the Vestry need a concrete, written report of exactly what he wants to do. No discussion or vote can be taken until we receive this written report.

### *Sexton*

Dave has reviewed the Sexton's job description and will send it to the Personnel Committee for advertising, etc. In the meantime, he has arranged for System 4 to take up the cleaning slack. They will come on Tuesdays and Fridays.

### *Solar initiatives*

The Property Commission has been investigating options for acquiring solar power to supplement our income and/or offset our electrical expenses. Dave M. described 2 different kinds of solar initiatives – “net metering” proposals, being investigated by Paul W., and a “tariff program,” being investigated by Dave M. and Dave F. Both of these kinds of programs have pros and cons.

After much discussion, it was determined that the Vestry supports the development of some kind of solar energy on our property and that the Property Commission will continue to pursue its investigations.

Chris Barker mentioned Tesla and their new solar product that looks like a slate roof. He thought that we might be a good test site for this new product.

Christian Myers made a motion, seconded by Chris Barker, that Paul W. be empowered to correspond with Narragansett Electric about the 5 lights that are lighting the parking lot we are not using.

## **Discipleship**

*Renewal Works* – It was decided that additional discussion of Renewal Works at this time would not be the best use of the Vestry's time.

Once more the discussion circled back to a Vestry Retreat and what the content of that retreat would be. Once the planning meeting is held (April 6<sup>th</sup>), Peter will send out a Doodle Poll to determine the best date for holding the retreat.

*10:30 Worship Service*

The following is the list of ideas and thoughts that were gleaned from the past Vestry meeting:

- Music must be accessible, sing-able and familiar
- We need to encourage kids to pray – and assume kids will be there
- More visuals – banners, hangings, art
- Guest preachers – both from outside the church and members of our church
- Youth could also preach
- Contemporary language – readings / prayers /
- Drama / skits in place of sermon
- Psalm read rather than sung – a creative reading
- Bread vs wafers

At the February meeting, it was felt that more Vestry members needed to be present to continue this conversation. At the March Vestry meeting, we simply ran out of time. To be continued.....

The feedback on the current 10:30 worship service – Lent in the Round – has been very positive.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. with a prayer.

**The day and time of our next Vestry meeting is  
Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk