

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VESTRY

January 7, 2016

A Special Meeting of the Vestry was held in the Adult Education Room of the Parish House on this day. Jennifer Pedrick called the meeting to order at 6:40 and began with a prayer.

Present were: Junior Warden- Dave Monroe, Treasurer- Christine Winslow, Clerk – Mattie Gustafson, Marshall Lundberg, Christian Myers, Chris Barker, Anna Zambrano, Judy Hall, Amanda Westrom and The Reverend Jennifer Pedrick, Rector.

Senior Warden, Linda Drummond, was absent.

The Rector began with a presentation of *St. Mary's Giving Story*. See the attached spreadsheet for an outline of this presentation.

Overall, our giving picture is fairly positive. And we are only at the beginning of our journey together. We need to change the culture of giving at our church, and because change takes time, our pattern of giving might decrease before it begins to get better. Above all, we need to see God working in all that we do. The only way our giving is going to change is if we find ways to become a healthy, vital Christian community. Giving generously is the fruit of a transformed life.

Budget presentation – Christine Winslow

Many issues and alternatives were discussed.

- Property and Administration continue to look into the issue of multiple vendors and service contracts. We have several multiple-year service contracts that will be re-negotiated after our contractual obligations are met.
- Jennifer said that including all service music, prayers and readings in the worship bulletin was an intentional decision based on being inclusive and welcoming to new and returning folks. This kind of bulletin also allows for more flexibility in service content.
- The Buildings and Grounds line item does reflect a huge expense. We have just negotiated a contract for these services that was felt to be fair and reasonable. Also, part of this money comes from endowment funds.
- The Treasurer agreed to contact the Music Director for clarity about some music program expenses.

- Every effort is being made to make the running of the building more efficient. More remains to be done, including programming of all thermostats.

Judy Hall observed that the issue is bigger than just getting people to give more. It's how to get people to love St. Mary's and buy into supporting and building our mutual faith community.

Judy also suggested that before we pass a final budget, we run our figures by the Finance Commission one more time. Jennifer had an email from Bill Hall, head of the Finance Commission, which she then read. It contained the recommendation that the entire purchase price from the sale of the Old Parish House be applied directly to the income side of the 2016 budget, thereby balancing the budget and reducing the amount of draw on the Endowment from 7% to approximately 5.5%.

Christine Winslow made a motion to adopt this plan and the 2016 budget. The motion was seconded by Christian Myers. The motion passed.

Important going forward –

The above plan “solves” the budget shortfall for 2016, but David and others expressed concern for 2017. We need to start dealing with funding and leadership issues strategically.

The Vestry began discussing a number of future fund-raising strategies that include:

- “Raising the roof” fundraising event.
- Developing a plan for how to take care of our capital expenses in a deliberate way.
- We need to be clear among Vestry members what endowment funds we have and what they are supposed to be used for.
- We need to learn how to communicate with parish members more clearly about fundraising and budgetary issues.

Jennifer suggested that we repeat what was done last year, and hold a Coffee and Conversation Session the Sunday before the Annual Meeting, to present and discuss budget issues and decisions. This will be scheduled for Sunday, January 24th at 9:15 a.m. Jennifer suggested that the theme for this year be “renewal” which fits well with our participation in Renewal Works.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk