

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2016

Present: Senior Warden- Linda Drummond, Junior Warden- David Monroe, Treasurer- Christine Winslow, Clerk- Mattie Gustafson, Christian Myers, Chris Barker, Judy Hall, Chris Bartlett, Amanda Westrom, Trish Culver, David Ferkinhoff and the Reverend Jennifer Pedrick, Rector

Absent: Jenny Williams and Anna Zambrano

Jennifer opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with prayer and a Bible study of Acts, Chapter 5.

The Bible study led to a discussion of the role of the leadership in our church. Four activities were identified as leadership traits: practicing spiritual disciplines, worshipping regularly, offering gifts for ministry and offering financial gifts for the support of the community. Jennifer also discussed the Vestry's role in worship in general and in the Triduum – the 3 days leading up to Easter. She urged all Vestry members to lead by example and attend all of these services. She asked, that if this attendance is not possible, we at least be in communication about our inability to attend. This models an accountability that we need to have to one another as a community of leaders.

Consent Agenda

David F. made a motion, seconded by Linda D., that the Consent Agenda, which included minutes for the March 17th Vestry meeting, the April 3rd Special Vestry meeting and the Senior Warden's Report, be approved. The motion was passed.

Rector's Time

Rachel Field

Jennifer is just finishing up with paperwork and contracts, etc. Rachel's starting date is Saturday, June 18th. She will begin full time work then, but will be going on a pre-arranged trip for 3 weeks in July. Linda and Jennifer will work out benefit and salary details.

Judy Hall will speak to the Hospitality Commission with ideas on how to make Rachel feel welcome. Suggestions from the Vestry included a picnic on the 19th, meals for her first few days here, stocking her apartment with some basic supplies, etc. She is also looking for a place to live. Chris Barker suggested if we knew her requirements, we could spread the word. Often word-of-mouth in an apartment hunt can be valuable.

Gabe Giella

Gabe's last day will be Sunday, June 5th. He will preach on this Sunday, and we are planning a pot-luck lunch for him. We also want to offer him some kind of gift.

Bishop's Visit

Bishop Knisely will be here for a visit and Confirmation on Sunday, May 15th. He will be at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services, but Confirmation – of 12 folks ! plus one reception – will take place at the 10:30 service. The Vestry will not meet formally with him this time.

Safeguarding the Church Workshop

Jennifer brought back a 3-page Fiduciary Check List that the Senior Warden, Treasurer, Clerk and Rector need to review. We will set up a meeting to do this soon. St. Mary's is not doing the appropriate kind of audit. This is also something we need to look at.

Renewal Works

The data is back and Jennifer feels it is accurate. 95 folks responded to the online survey, which is 65% of our average Sunday attendance – a very good number. The group that has been working on this program will hold some workshops in June to let the rest of the parish in on what they have been doing and what they see going forward.

Stewardship of St. Mary's Land and Resources

We began the conversation of what our vision should be regarding our campus, gardens, grounds, trees, etc. centered around the questions "What do we value?" and "How do we make decisions?" See the attached addendum, put together by Chris Bartlett, summarizing this initial conversation.

Treasurer's Report

Christine W. took us through her report. The income side looks very positive and expenses, thus far are close to budget. It has been a good quarter.

Parochial Report

Is done! Christine passed out copies and went over some of the entries and details. Christian Myers made a motion, seconded by Chris Bartlett that the Vestry approve the Parochial Report as presented. Motion carried. Once Jennifer has looked the report over in more detail, folks will need to sign it and it will then be on its way to the Diocese.

Planning for next year

Dave M. is concerned about St. Mary's overall budget going forward into 2017. A deficit is possible and he is concerned that we will not be able to make it up without some very hard decisions.

The Finance Commission is planning on putting together an initial budget for 2017 at its next (May) meeting. They know that significant challenges exist for next year that both the Vestry and the Finance Commission will have to strategize about – so starting soon seems prudent. Jennifer said that part of the solution would be to grow revenue by increased membership and increased giving.

Property Commission Report

Dave M. presented the Commission's updated list of "Deferred or Near-Term Maintenance" for the Church and grounds.

Church's roof

The most urgent need seems to be the restoration of the church roof, which is slate and decades older than its life expectancy. Dave suggested that because there is so much history wrapped up in the building and its contents, we might be able to find a foundation or two that would be willing to give us a grant to help with the restoration. The very first step is funding an architectural and engineering assessment – to form a more accurate idea of what kinds of repairs are actually needed.

Oliphant Lane Property

Dave M. moved that we authorize the expenditure of funds as required from the scholarship account to prepare to sell the Oliphant Lane land and that we authorize the Property Commission to proceed with sale preparations. Linda D. seconded the motion. The motion passed. David will be the contact person for this whole procedure.

New Sexton

Gilbert Soares, Jr., has been hired as our new Sexton and will begin work on Monday, April 25th.

Many thanks to Dave and Dorothy for finding us a Sexton and for filling in, with much help from other parishioners, while we were without one.

New Business

- The date for the next Vestry meeting has been changed to Thursday, May 26th at 6:30.
- The election of the Parish Clerk, required by our By-Laws, will take place on Sunday, May 1st at the coffee hour between the services. Notices will go out to all parishioners this week and next.
- The Healthy Cooking event went very well, and Jennifer is already planning the next program. This next program will not be done in conjunction with Tenth Gate Yoga, but on our own – and branded as a St. Mary's event.
- Judy H., as a representative of the Vestry, will connect with Sarah Barker, chair of the Hospitality Commission to talk about the "hail and farewell" events being planned for Gabe and Rachel.

Jennifer closed the meeting at 8:23 p.m. with a prayer.