

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
October 19, 2016

**Present:** Senior Warden- Linda Drummond, Treasurer- Christine Winslow, Clerk- Mattie Gustafson, Jenny Williams, Christian Myers, Trish Culver, Chris Bartlett, Chris Barker, Judy Hall, Michelle Freitas, Paul Westrom, the Rev. Rachel Field and the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

**Absent:** Junior Warden – Dave Monroe and Dave Ferkinhoff.

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Chris Barker read a prayer and we then engaged in a Bible study of Acts, Chapter 10.

A welcome was extended to the two new Vestry members, Michelle Freitas and Paul Westrom.

**Consent Agenda**

Chris Bartlett made a motion, seconded by Trish Culver, that we accept the Consent Agenda, which included the Minutes for the August 17th Vestry meeting and the Senior Warden's Report. The motion passed.

**Rector's Time**

**Rector's Continuing Education and Vacation**

Jennifer is very excited about the CE opportunity she will be attending beginning tomorrow. The series is entitled *Living Compass* and looks at Congregational Wellness in all senses of that word – spiritual, physical, mental, etc. She hopes to bring back many great ideas for us. After the workshop series, she will be on vacation for a few days. In her absence, Rachel F. (pastoral) and Linda D. (building, etc.) will be in charge. Rachel will have 2 Aquidneck priests available to her for additional support.

**Harvest Sunday – November 13th**

This is a very important day in the life of our parish. Jennifer is planning on writing invitations to the many community groups that use our space, inviting them to join us for worship, lunch, to help clean up and to offer a one-time financial gift. She urged all Vestry members to attend, and to lead the way in returning pledge cards – which will also be collected that weekend. All this and Chili-Cook-Off, too!

**Rachel's Ordination – December 10<sup>th</sup>**

Another big day! This will be a big celebration of Rachel's becoming a priest, with 2 (or maybe 3?) Bishops, special music and many in attendance. Worship will be followed by a

dinner – which is being coordinated by Judy Hall. Rachel will be celebrating her first Eucharist on Sunday. Please plan to come to both special days.

## **Old Business**

### **By-Law changes**

Because of the absence of Dave. F., consideration of by-law changes will be taken up in 2017, after the Annual Meeting.

### **Filling Sarah Gibbs Trustee vacancy**

Jennifer nominated Paul W. to fill the unexpired term of Amanda Westrom on this Board. The nomination was seconded by Chris W. and the nomination passed. Christian M. will let Jeff Belden know that Paul will be replacing Amanda on the Trustees.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Christine W. presented two reports, for August and September.

Michelle F. asked for clarification of the L3 Budget item under Liabilities, Youth Programs. After some discussion, Paul W. moved, seconded by Chris Bartlett, that the total amount in this line item, \$1074, be used by the Christian Formation Commission for youth programs.

Linda D. made a motion, seconded by Chris Barker to accept both Treasurer's Reports. The motion passed.

A team of qualified St. Mary's parishioners has been performing an audit on our financial accounts, and Chris Bartlett reported that the audit is 90% complete. Chris said the records are in very good shape and all is looking fine.

### **Property Report** – (Linda D for Dave M.)

#### **Old PH and parking**

Jim Farrar has asked to be able to rent about 12 parking spaces on the north side of our large parking lot near the OPH. The request and all supporting documents have been forwarded to Rich Sayer for an opinion as to whether the Vestry or the Sara Gibbs Trustees have the authority to make this decision.

#### **Oliphant Lane Property**

We have received 6 offers for purchase of the Oliphant Lane property. Dave M. has asked developers to submit a "best and final" offer on or before October 21<sup>st</sup>. Once Dave receives these, he will put together a report and recommendation for the Vestry to vote on, at a special Vestry meeting to be called for this purpose, if such a special meeting is deemed necessary. Linda D. asked Christian M. to work with Dave M. to review these offers and assemble the report.

## **Restricted Donation**

St. Mary's has once again been the fortunate recipient of an anonymous, monetary donation for several specific projects.

Jennifer made a motion, seconded by Linda D., that the Vestry accept the donors' request to renovate and renew the Bridal path, using a landscape firm of their choosing, pending Vestry approval of the plans for that renovation. The motion passed.

Jennifer made a motion, seconded by Christian M., that the Vestry approve the donors' request to remove the fill in the SW corner of the lot, near the Community Garden (aka Mt. St. Mary's), along with other cleanup of the surrounding area. This will be done by the firm to which the Property Commission awards the job, after a bidding process is complete. This motion passed.

Votes on two more projects, suggested by the donors, have been deferred until the Vestry receives more information on both.

The Property Commission has drawn up a list of "deferred and near term maintenance" projects that need funding, and the Vestry needs to have a discussion about this list. We want the list to serve as a valuable resource for future donors and the entire Raise the Roof effort, as it goes forward. Jennifer asked Christian M. to ask the Property Commission if they could re-arrange the list to conform to the organization in the Raise the Roof report – i.e., Tier one, Tier Two and Tier Three projects.

## **Old Business** (cont.)

### **Raise the Roof Update**

The Vestry agreed that it would be a good idea to get a great deal of the preliminary work for this campaign done so that Raise the Roof could launch before the end of the year. We would kick-off the campaign with signs and logos, and the all-important list of prioritized projects, so that if someone wanted to contribute before the close of 2016, everything would be in place. We could then have a Gala Celebration (with dancing and song) later in the spring, perhaps when we hit a significant milestone? We should also think about having other events along the way, to help keep up energy and interest.

Chris Barker and his team hope to get branding and accounting issues settled by the next Vestry meeting. Also to be discussed at Vestry next month will be the tiered list of projects that we hope to fund. Planning some kind of launch event might also be a good idea.

### **Use of PH space**

Jenny W. has done some thinking about expanding our use of the Parish House – for lectures, continuing education opportunities, classes, workshops – and even thought about

expanding use of the facilities for weddings. She suggested that all these events be put under an umbrella in a really organized way, with a specific mission and goal. It was suggested that these ideas, and their impact on the church and its staff, be discussed in more depth by the Planning / Visioning Committee once it starts functioning.

### **Fashion Show**

This was a great success and a wonderful time for both our church, our community and the Martin L. King Center. We netted approximately \$3,000, which we will split with the King Center. And a great time was had by all!

Linda D. offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie E. Gustafson  
Clerk