

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING
MINUTES
April 28, 2022

Present: Senior Warden-Marlo Pratt, Treasurer-David Brierley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Lee Ferreira, Matt Spohn, Richard Updegrove, Rita Verespy, and Peter Collins

Present via Zoom: John Corbishley, Ray Edler, and Junior Warden-George LeBlanc

Guest present: Murry Edwards

Absent: Julie Zecher, Anne Wood

Marlo called the meeting to order at 6:01 and Mattie offered a prayer.

Reconnecting with Each Other in the Presence of God - Marlo

Marlo posed the question – Looking back on Holy Week in the historic church, what did you feel or notice about participating in worship there? A discussion followed.

Tuck Scholarship Fund – Murry Edwards

Murry had passed out a really thorough history of the Tuck Fund and its origins (thanks to Ted Bierman and Father Gordon Stenning). The history concluded with some possible action items for the Vestry. Much discussion ensued.

- Richard U. asked if there was a written document that outlined policies and procedures for this fund.
- Murry replied that there is a process involved with granting these scholarships but nothing is actually written down. She was hoping that this discussion with the Vestry would be the beginning of a process that would result in new, updated and written guidelines and procedures.
- Richard U. suggested that the Vestry not take any formal action until we had more time to discuss and review the issues involved.
- Murry agreed and said that the Committee will proceed for the upcoming semester, but would welcome clarity and a written policy.
- Peter said we do not have to re-invent the wheel – surely other churches have scholarships and we might be able to adapt their guidelines to our needs.
- Richard U. observed that because no one has looked at the fund and its purpose for a number of years, any written policy should include a provision to regularly review said policy.
- Murry reminded us that the scholarships are not need-based.
- David B. observed that any scholarships awarded from the fund are not part of the 5% endowment draw calculation.

Choir Chairs for Historic Church – Marlo

After some discussion on the above topic, Rita made a motion that the Vestry approve the design decision to replace the six pews in the choir area with an ample number of worship chairs. Richard seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Historic Church Update – Richard

The Vestry Planning Committee, consisting of Rita Verespy, John Corbishley, Marlo Pratt, Peter Collins and convenor, Richard Updegrove, are functioning essentially as a liaison between all those involved in construction and renovation and the Vestry.

- Ron M. has confirmed a May 2nd start date.
- The Committee explored the issue of creating a 501C3 for St. Mary's, and initial findings are that there are more drawbacks than advantages. Richard will have a written report for the Vestry at its next meeting, detailing their findings.

Stewardship Update on Historic Church Pledges – Rita

Rita reported that we have received to date a total of \$334,532 in pledges for the renovation of the historic church. In addition to these pledges, we have \$164,443 in gifts (and pledges received thus far). Beginning next month Dave B. will prepare a monthly report for the Vestry showing the amount we started with, amounts received and pledges thus far, so that we can be assured of sufficient funds available for this project. Rita is asked to supply up-to-date pledge and donation data to Dave for this report.

There were several questions – and there seems to be some confusion from both the Vestry and church members - about when folks who had made pledges should actually start sending in their contribution. Rita will speak with Jennifer when she gets back to see if this needs to be made clearer. In the meantime, Rita suggested a short blurb in the eNews about pledging and donations and when the campaign is supposed to run (Jan 1, 2022 through Dec 31, 2024). This might help folks who are puzzled begin to send in their pledge.

Treasurer's Report – Dave B.

Dave said – “We’re doing really well!”

- Pledges are running to 97% of the budgeted amount. Loose offerings are 269% of the budgeted amount!
- Dave will check with Chris B. to ascertain what the difference is between the “Donations” and “Miscellaneous” categories.
- Rita asked if Dave would consider adding a “Year-to-Date” column to his Treasurer’s Report. This would help clarify line items that are paid irregularly.
- The surplus budget from last year is still being finalized. Dave will present a report on the surplus to the Vestry at its next meeting.

Marlo Pratt made the following motion:

I make a motion that we approve the commitment letter from BankNewport detailing the terms of the \$500,000 line of credit for the church renovation project. In addition I move that we authorize David Brierley in his role as St Mary's treasurer to sign the commitment letter on behalf of St Mary's Church and also to sign any and all documents related to obtaining the line of credit from BankNewport.

Richard Updegrove seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with all present in person and via Zoom voting "aye."

Property – Junior Warden Report – George L.

- Work on the Rectory siding has begun, and all is going well.
- All the donated benches have been assembled and installed.
- The back-fill has been replaced.
- It was decided not to rebuild the stone wall this year and to defer the cost to next year.
- Another tree "bites the dust" – during the last storm. We are waiting on a quote for its removal.
- We have lost several shingles from the Parish House roof – which is not that old, and should not be losing shingles. In addition to replacing the lost shingles, we are going to have the roof inspected to see why this is happening.

Consent Agenda

Richard U. made a motion that we accept the Consent Agenda, consisting of the March 24th Vestry Minutes, the minutes of the March 6th Special Meeting, the minutes of the April 16th Special Meeting and the Treasurer's Report. Dave B. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk