

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
April 26, 2018

**Present:** Junior Warden-Paul Westrom, Clerk- Mattie Gustafson, Rector- the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick, Trish Culver, Chris Barker, David Brierley, Julie Zecher, Dave Ferkinhoff, Jenny Williams and Peter Collins.

**Absent:** Senior Warden- Murry Edwards, Treasurer- Chris Bartlett, Steve Downing and Michelle Freitas.

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:05. Dave F. read a prayer.

The vestry leadership covenant was read aloud. The mission statement "St. Mary's Episcopal Church is a community of Christian worship, well-being and service" was also read. Ministry Priorities for 2018 were read, reviewed and affirmed.

**Bible Study-** Acts: 22 and 23.

**Consent Agenda**

Peter C. made a motion, seconded by Dave F. that we accept the Consent Agenda, which included the Minutes for March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Property Report and the Financial Report. The motion passed.

**Basecamp – Peter C.**

Peter gave a brief explanation of the collaboration software platform called *Basecamp*. The RFT has been the guinea pig in getting this software up and running – now Peter suggested we expand users to include the Executive Committee and the Vestry.

There is a short online training course available (weekly?) that might be helpful for people using *Basecamp* for the first time.

In general, this kind of cooperative platform is designed to streamline communication and promote transparency – both very good outcomes for St. Mary's.

Dave F. will send a link to all Vestry members inviting them to become "members" of *Basecamp*. He will also create 2 project groups – Vestry and Executive Committee. Jennifer can put her weekly updates there; items for the Consent Agenda (minutes, reports, etc.) can go there, and folks can ask questions or suggest changes as well.

### **Renewal Funding Team – Peter C.**

Things are progressing reasonably well. The group has lots of events planned, including the kick-off Wine and Cheese Reception on May 12<sup>th</sup>. They will be introducing the campaign and explaining goals and donation procedures.

Jennifer suggested that the actual mechanics of giving needs to be refined. It might be a good idea to look at the documentation and pr for the previous campaign, which might be helpful or suggest some best practices.

*Grants* – Dave F. reported on grant efforts. There are 3 letters of intent out and 2 actual requests: one due in June, another in July. The work progresses.

### **By-Laws Changes and Updates – Dave F.**

The only change made to the draft as presented, was to Article IV, Section 3. The last sentence in that section should read, “**The Annual Meeting Report shall be sent in duplicate to the Bishop within 15 days of the meeting.**” A motion was made by David B., seconded by Paul W. the Vestry approve the By-Law Changes and Updates as presented. The motion passed.

### **Congregational Development**

The Vestry then spent the next 50 minutes or so discussing the recently held *Coffee and Conversation* and the results of the poll taken at the Annual Meeting which asked members, “What do you want from your church?”

#### ***Coffee and Conversation* – What went well?**

- We had it!
- Attendance was good
- The message was presented clearly and well
- Communication norms were named
- The tone of the meeting was accepting and non-judgmental; all were respectful of differences of opinion

#### **What could be improved?**

- It was, perhaps, too scripted?
- There were too many things covered. Maybe we should have focused on the Thrift Shop and Gibbs House – issues which had caused some controversy.
- We needed to have more actual conversation.

The next *Coffee and Conversation* is scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>. One possible topic for this meeting might be the results of the poll mentioned above.

### **Understanding the Vestry's role and duty**

It was affirmed that it is the responsibility of the Vestry to do their very best with what God has given us at St. Mary's – the land, the buildings, the staff, our ministries and worship services. At the same time, the Vestry is charged with being fiscally responsible.

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

1. Chris Barker suggested that it would be nice to have a short Christian Formation report from Gabe for our monthly meetings.
2. Jennifer shared many exciting plans that are in process for the upcoming summer.
3. Jennifer will be away April 29<sup>th</sup> through the first week in May.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**The next vestry meeting - May 25, 2018**

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk