

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2021 – Via Zoom

Present: Senior Warden-Marlo Pratt, Junior Warden-George LeBlanc, Treasurer-David Brierley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Julie Zecher, David Spengler, Matt Spohn, Chris Winslow, Lee Ferreira, Richard Updegrove, Chris Bartlett, Dave Ferkinhoff, and the Rector- the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

Absent: Peter Collins

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:02 p.m. Mattie experimented (successfully!) with taking a few pictures of the Vestry on Zoom. Jennifer explained Zoom and reviewed St. Mary's mission.

Reconnecting with each other, in the presence of God.

Jennifer asked the Vestry to reflect on two questions: 1) What led you to vestry service and 2) what gifts do you bring to this ministry? All members shared their responses.

Moving Forward Taskforce

Jennifer mentioned the MFT's adoption of the *Criteria for Decision Making*, which was one of the first policies adopted by this taskforce. It might be a good idea for all Vestry members to review its content. (A copy may be found on Basecamp, 2021 Miscellaneous Documents.)

Although the State has relaxed its policies with regard to gatherings, Bishop Knisely has asked that we not gather inside yet. SMC has no plans to move inside at this time. On March 18th the Diocese is holding a "Town Hall" meeting to discuss re-opening criteria and planning.

The Task Force is committing most of its planning time to Holy Week and Easter. Here's what's in the works so far:

- Palm Sunday (3/28) – In person, outdoors
- Maundy Thursday (4/1) – Community Zoom service and dinner
- Good Friday (4/2) – Service on Facebook Live and recorded
- Great Vigil of Easter (4/3) – In person, outdoors
- Easter Sunday (4/4) – In person, outdoors

All outdoor services are weather permitting: all services will be recorded for viewing from home or at a later time.

David B. reported on the progress of installing wifi in the historic church. A consultant is coming in to connect the church to the Parish House. We also have a new camera that should improve the quality of our livestreaming. The Worship Committee plans on livestreaming services indefinitely, as livestreaming and recording worship services have become important

parts of our outreach and ministry. Better connections and equipment are essential for this effort.

Orientation for New Members – Jennifer Pedrick

We should be calling this “re-orientation” as it will be valuable for all vestry members. Jennifer has purchased enough copies of the Forward Movement publication, *Vestry Resource Guide*, so that all the vestry may have one. Vestry members may pick up their copy from Karen. Please call first and let her know you are coming. The plan is to cover a couple of topics each month.

Vestry assignment: Read chapter 1 and think about the questions at the end of the chapter.

Jennifer went over some of the “nut and bolts” of running a church.

- The Executive Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of the month
- The Vestry meets the 4th Thursday of the month
- She described Basecamp and mentioned a *How It Works* section (<https://basecamp.com/how-it-works>) if people want more help understanding this communication tool.
- Jennifer organized the documents, etc., living on Basecamp and directed everyone’s attention to Foundational Documents. This section on Basecamp contains such things as the national and state Episcopal Church Canons and Laws; St Mary’s By-Laws, our Churchyard (cemetery) policies, etc. (There is no requirement to read all of this, but feel free to browse through and begin to understand what they all are.)

Sarah Gibbs Vestry Trustees

Jennifer nominated the following for appointment as Vestry Trustees to the Sarah Gibbs Trust:

- David Brierley for a term that ends in 2024
- Richard Updegrove for a term that ends in 2023
- Christine Winslow for a term that ends in 2022.

Matt Spohn seconded the nominations. The motion and the nominations passed.

Goals for 2021

As time was getting short, Jennifer suggested that everyone look over the goals that had been included in the agenda for this meeting and think about them, respond to them, come up with better ones, or simply put together some comments for our next meeting.

Junior Warden Report – George LeBlanc

1) We are in the process of implementing the two maintenance priorities George included in his report: 1) cleaning and staining the Parish House and 2) sealing the parking lot.

2) George also reported that one of the furnaces in Gibbs House has died. Sea Rose is carrying on with the remaining furnace and some space heaters. Chris B. suggested that, since replacing

the furnace (and keeping heat going for Sea Rose) is an immediate need, George get quotes for the replacement. The Vestry can vote by email.

3) Part of the stone wall in front of Gibbs House has fallen over. We have a person who is willing to donate the money to have this wall fixed and to remove the trees that contributed to the problem in the first place. George (and Jon) will go ahead with this.

4) Painting and staining the Worship Shell is also needed, and George said we can probably do this with the help of volunteers.

5) Paul Westrom, head of the HCRT, has reported that all the mold that was on the interior walls is gone. Paul is working actively on walls, lighting, floors and a sound system.

6) In the Summer of 2022 the solar farm at ECC will be up and running. We have applied to the Diocese to be able to take advantage of any power credit that may be accrued as a result of this solar installation.

Parochial Report and PPP – Chris B.

Chris explained briefly what the Parochial Report was, and that it was complete and ready to submit. Richard U. made a motion, seconded by Chris B., that the Vestry accept the Parochial Report. The motion passed.

Various officers of the Vestry will need to sign the report before it is sent in. Jennifer will arrange for folks to come in who need to sign it.

PPP – Chris said we are going to apply for forgiveness for this loan. Applications for this process have opened up at the bank, but we have until mid-summer to file. Chris B. wants to work with Dave B. on this. The Diocese has said it will not include the PPP amount in our income, for apportionment calculations.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded that we accept the Consent Agenda, consisting of the minutes from the January Vestry meeting and the Treasurer's Report covering January. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk