

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2019

Present: Senior Warden-Murry Edwards, Junior Warden-Paul Westrom, Treasurer-Chris Bartlett, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Julie Zecher, Peter Collins, Dave Ferkinhoff, David Brierley, Trish Culver, David Spengler, Chris Winslow and the Rector- the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

Absent: Michelle Freitas

Before we begin, Paul brought up the issue of updating members of the Vestry on Basecamp. David F. said he had just done that. (e.g., Jenny and Chris Barker are off; David S. and Chris W. are on!)

Jennifer then began the meeting at 6:06 with a dynamite prayer (from the New Zealand Prayer Book).

Introductions, for the benefit of new Vestry members, and a warm welcome (or welcome back) for all.

Congregational Development

Worship Guild and Summer Worship – Jennifer

Jennifer has gathered 15 people together to look at our worship time together. Question: If worship is one of our major missions, how do we tap into the power and worship and develop our worship services accordingly?

Task One: Plan Holy Week and the Triduum. In general, the group hopes to be working about 6 weeks in advance of a church season.

Summer Worship – We will go to one service at 9:00 a.m. for the months of June, July and August. This service will offer a blended style of music and Michael Templeton will be in charge of this. The Sunday service will be followed by coffee hour.

Invite, Welcome, Connect – Jennifer

IWC has launched. Gabe will be staff liaison. David Spengler, Marlo Pratt and Regina Slezak are coordinators.

This is a #1 priority for our church and Vestry members need to be familiar with what IWC is and support and participate as they are able. All Vestry members were given a copy of the Invite, Welcome, Connect book and a separate handout of checklists.

The Vestry assignment for our next meeting is to take a look at all three checklists and think about where we, as a church, fall. David S. will act as the “official” liaison from the IWC Committee to the Vestry. David S. commented that one of the most important goals of the IWC Committee is to make sure we move forward steadily and consistently. He tells us we have a great team and he is excited about what is brewing.

Vestry Retreat – Jennifer

This will be modeled after The World Café format. It will take place downstairs in the Choir Room from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Rainbow Flag – Jennifer

Paul W. brought our attention to the unfortunate vote that the United Methodist Church had with regard to accepting the LGBTQ community. All Vestry members affirmed that St. Mary’s is a church that welcomes all people. We had voted to purchase and display a rainbow flag – that let’s folks know that we are a safe place to worship for all – and we are going ahead with that purchase. We do want to make sure that we have buy in and awareness, but Chris B. and others was sure this would not be a huge issue.

Updates and Issues

Parochial Report – Chris B.

The Parochial Report is the church’s report to the Diocese, communicating to them what we’ve been up to for the past year. Chris gave us an overview of the report which is finished and ready to be submitted!

- He brought our attention to several important pages:
Apportionment worksheet – which gives the Diocese the numbers from which they calculate how much we must pay the Diocese in support of their state-wide mission and ministry.
- Endowment Funds Sheet – Chris has worked long and hard on these calculations – which now in a clear and understandable – and accurate – format! Praise the Lord – and Chris!

Clarity on restricted versus unrestricted funds:

1. Unrestricted funds are under the Vestry’s purview as to how to spend these funds. (What the Vestry restricts, the Vestry can unrestrict.)

2. Truly restricted funds (in blue on the sheet) – The original principle cannot be spent at all. Proceeds from the principle – money that these funds have earned – can be spent, but only on the types of things mentioned in the original restriction.

Chris B. made a motion that we accept the Parochial Report and file it with the Diocese. Paul W. seconded. Motion passed.

Sea Rose Montessori School

Jennifer and Murry met with 3 representatives from Sea Rose and went over their recent email point by point.

Jennifer made a motion that the monthly rent for the Sea Rose Montessori School be fixed at \$1600 through December 31, 2019. Paul W. seconded. The motion passed.

Crises Center – Julie Z.

Julie has been investigated what kinds of crises resources exist in Portsmouth and on Aquidneck Island. She has discovered, so far, an Emergency Management professional for Portsmouth and the Emergency person for the Red Cross. They are interested in discussing further what role St. Mary's might play in the event of an emergency. Reps will be visiting our kitchen on March 12th. As Julie said, there are varying degrees of response that we can offer. The discussion is ongoing.

IT – Dave B.

This report has been postponed until the Vestry's next meeting.

South Parking Lot – Jennifer

We are waiting for a letter from Ann Hackett, requesting once again the rental of some of our parking lot, along with an apology for some of the mis-steps that have happened along the way.

The Vestry wants to make sure that our values as Christians and as neighbors are reflected in our dealings with Island Child Care, their leader and the families that depend on them for daycare. We also want our dealings with the Sarah Gibbs Trustees to reflect these values.

Junior Warden's Report – Property and HCRT – Paul W.

HCRT – We have hired an architect and gone out to bid for the roof replacement. Bids are higher than we anticipated, so Paul is continuing to work with both the architect

and contractors to resolve the issue. We are also looking for grants to do a study of the interior and the exterior, below the roof line.

Property – Various repairs have been accomplished. The exterior doors of the historic church need repair and preservation. We are continuing to negotiate the sale of the Oliphant Lane land. An energy audit of the Parish House and Gibbs House has just been completed. The electric company will come back to audit the Rectory shortly.

Once again, Paul W. said – “Thank God for Jon Walker!

Executive Session

Jennifer made motion, seconded by Murry that the Vestry go into executive session to discuss some personnel issues. Motion passed.

After some good discussions, the Vestry came out of executive session.

Consent Agenda

The only thing in the Consent Agenda is the Minutes for the January meeting. Paul W. made a motion, seconded by Dave B. that we accept the Minutes for January 24, 2019. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. with another “night prayer” from the New Zealand Prayer Book.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk