

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
January 23, 2020

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

Also present was Matt Spohn, testing the Vestry waters.

**Absent:** Treasurer-Chris Bartlett, Peter Collins, and Michelle Freitas.

Murry opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. by reading "A Blessing for the New Year," a poem from *Bless the Space Between Us*.

The Vestry reviewed our Mission, Ministry Priorities and Leadership Goals.

### **Congregational Development**

#### ***Preparing for the Bishop's Visit***

Prior to his visit (February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>) the Bishop sent out a questionnaire for the Vestry to ponder and to answer.

#### **1. What is going well?**

We did this exercise at the last Vestry meeting, but highlights include the increase in new members (31 last year!); the success of *Invite, Welcome, Connect*; a spiritual growth and maturity- manifested by the large numbers in attendance at the Sunday Bible Study and an openness to change and the adaptability of the congregation as a whole; leadership has become better at responding to difficult questions from parishioners and there are better communications on the whole; the roof is done!!!; pledging has increased significantly; there seems to be more commitment abroad in the land; growth in small-group participation; development and success of Worship Guild and Social Issues Committee.

#### **2. Two recent accomplishments? - Pick two!**

#### **3. Greatest Concern?**

Low number of children and families participating in church; keeping and supporting mid-level leadership; keeping the momentum going; burn-out of core leadership; average attendance at weekend worship flat-lined; staff vacancy and developing that position to match our needs and priorities.

#### **4. How can Diocese help?**

Listen to us and tell us what you can do to help; assistance with social media presence; group purchasing of commodities. We have a large campus that is a major concern and responsibility. Maybe the Diocese could take this into account when computing

apportionment? Also, it could be that SMC is too insular, and it would benefit us to become more involved in the Diocese.

#### **5. Challenges to physical plant? – see Paul’s report!**

#### **6. Encourage electronic giving?**

Is this worth spending much time on?? We should at least put a notice in the eNews once a month, reminding people that they can give electronically.

Dave F. had a question about Safe Church and training for Eucharistic Visitors, pointing out that modules should be appropriate for what folks actually did. It was the consensus, the we have a responsibility to ourselves, our members and the church at large to make this training available and to require folks to engage with it. Safe Church provides safety for everyone.

#### ***Setting Goals for 2020***

We have made tremendous progress in implementing the goals we set for ourselves and our church last year, but much is left to be done. After some productive discussion, the following were set as our 2020 goals

#### **Ministry Priorities**

Continue to support and develop the *Invite, Welcome, Connect* initiative. We are by no means “finished” with this effort which has been so successful thus far.

#### **Leadership Priorities**

- Continue with reorganizing for growth, by crafting a staffing plan that reflects our needs and ministry priorities in 2020 and into the future.
- Continue (and complete!) the historic church renewal project.
- We have been entrusted with incredible resources: money (pledges, endowment and grants), property, building and grounds, and people. Continue to manage and be good and responsible stewards for all these resources.

#### **Treasurer’s Report – Chris B.**

Murry made a motion, seconded by Paul W. to bring the Treasurer’s Report temporarily out of the Consent Agenda, so Chris B. could make an oral presentation via cell phone. Chris’s written report was sent out prior to this meeting, but he wanted to emphasize to all that we ended the financial year very strongly.

#### **Property Report – Paul W.**

Dave F. made a motion, seconded by Chris W., to add Property Report to the agenda. Paul’s written report was also sent out to all Vestry members, but Paul wanted to emphasize the positive way we have ended the year and Stage 2 of the Historic Church renewal project.

Now on to Stage 3. The architects are beginning the study of the interior of the church, and will present the Historic Church Committee with a plan in 2-3 months.

At the Annual Meeting we will celebrate the completion of Stages 1 and 2, a roof that has been raised, and the tremendous amount of work and dedication from all involved, that has made this possible. Hallelujah, amen!

**Consent Agenda**

Dave B. made a motion, seconded by Dave F., that the Consent Agenda, consisting of the minutes from the December Vestry meeting and the Treasurer's Report, be accepted. The motion passed.

**Thank you to retiring Vestry members.**

Jennifer and Murry and the rest of the Vestry thanked Trish C and Michelle F. for their participation on and dedication to the Vestry.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk