

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
July 22, 2021

**Present:** Senior Warden-Marlo Pratt, Junior Warden-George LeBlanc, Treasurer-David Brierley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Julie Zecher, Chris Bartlett, David Spengler, Peter Collins, Richard Updegrove, and the Rector- the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

**Absent:** Lee Ferreira, Dave Ferkinhoff, Matt Spohn and Chris Winslow.

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:04 p.m. by reading the poem *The Summer Day* by Mary Oliver and offering the *Prayer for Vocation and Daily Work* from the BCP.

**Reconnecting with each other, in the presence of God.**

Discussion of Chapter 5 in the *Vestry Resource Guide*, led by Jennifer and Dave B.

- The Finance Committee has not been holding their regular meetings during COVID. They are yet another committee that is trying to get back on track to meet quarterly. Marlo will touch base with Bill Hall (chair of this committee) to ask about their progress.
- Richard U. thought it is incredibly important for next year, to start / restart the basic processes of the church - budget, finances, worship, education – which had, during COVID, been unsettled or absent all together.
- A question was asked about inventories of furnishings and equipment for insurance purposes. Do such inventories exist? Are they up to date? This led to a discussion about the Church Insurance Agency and the allowances they make for church record keeping. It might be a good idea, however, to take note on anything that we have (silver? stained glass windows?) that might be valuable. David S. said it would be wise to have our policies reviewed. Dave B. will follow up on this issue.
- We do our own audit, using 3 CPA's that are church members. The audit for last year is in progress and due to the Diocese in September.
- Richard U., Peter C., and Murry E. have formed a committee to rewrite (or write) a Personnel Handbook for SMC. Thus far samples they have received have not been very helpful. Jennifer will look for a personnel handbook from a church outside our Diocese that might be appropriate as an example.
- Jennifer mentioned a Mutual Ministry Review and said this might be a useful tool for future consideration.

**Half-Year Financial Update – David B.**

David B. gave his half-year report (which was sent out to all members prior to the meeting).

- Pledges are doing well, and expenses are reasonable.

- Endowment withdrawals are being adjusted so that the year's total reflects the correct amount.
- Diocesan apportionment flexibility due to COVID has also helped our bottom line.
- Someone asked if we had lots of COVID 19-related expenses, and the only major expense Dave B. could think of was the worship shed.

Jennifer thanked Chris B. and his staff, and Dave B. for working so hard on the transition between Treasurers.

### **Updates from the Rector – Jennifer P.**

#### ***Invite, Welcome, Connect***

Jennifer and Marlo are working on developing a clear view of what ministries might be included under the IWC umbrella, and identifying people already leading (or inviting people to consider leading) these various ministries. Recruiting leaders is having mixed success. People seem to be less willing to commit to leadership positions right now.

Thus far Lee F. has accepted the overall leadership of IWC. Mattie G. will head up Invite; Murry E. will lead Welcome. Despite the fact that we are lacking one more leader (for Welcome), these 3 leaders met for lunch and discussed the IWC culture and how to proceed. Lee sent out a brief account of our meeting to all Vestry members.

Our immediate next steps are to educate Vestry and parishioners about IWC.

Toward that end, for the September Vestry meeting, IWC will send a link to a video that presents an overall view of IWC. The Vestry will be asked to view the video before the meeting, and Lee and Mattie will lead a discussion and answer questions.

#### ***Ministry Fair – Jennifer P.***

This will be held on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. The leaders of all key ministries will be asked to staff a table at the fair and be prepared to answer questions about their work and invite people to join their efforts.

The Vestry will have a table, and the folks staffing that table should be members of the Nominating Committee. All vestry members are urged to attend.

The Ministry Fair date will also be the kick off for the Stewardship Campaign.

#### ***An Intern for SMC – Marlo P.***

Marlo will investigate the possibility of SMC getting an intern from a local college to help us with our audio and video endeavors. Because our intention is to be a hybrid church, we are

always looking for ways to help up with this endeavor. To link people into our worship, music and more

***Reflection on Decision Making - Jennifer P.***

Jennifer offered the question – what is the Vestry able to decide without the rector’s approval? The key is what is urgent and important for which a decision cannot be delayed (boiler dead, tree falling down) and what can perhaps wait for consensus and the Rector’s input?

**Renewal Funding Team – Peter C.**

This team will hold a meeting in early August to gear up for fundraising for the church’s interior renovation. Dave F. is already well into grant writing for the project.

It was suggested that once it cools off, indoor worship be held in the historic church, even in its current state. This might encourage folks to donate and demonstrate graphically what needed to be accomplished.

**Junior Warden Update – George LeBlanc**

In between Vestry meetings, a large tree fell down and needed to be removed promptly. Marlo sent out an email motion which passed, and the tree was removed. [Email motion at the end of these minutes.]

When Northeast Tree was on the property, George had them do a survey of the trees in general. Northeast Tree identified 8 trees that needed to be removed and 2 trees that needed to be trimmed. George stressed that the removal and trimming of these trees represented a safety issue. George L. made a motion, seconded by Dave B. that we spend \$7980 to remove and trim the trees identified in the proposal by Northeast Tree dated 8 July 2021. The motion passed.

**Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Chris B. and seconded by George L. that we accept the Consent Agenda, consisting of the June Vestry Minutes and Treasurer’s Report. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. There will be no Vestry meeting in August.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk

## **Email Motion re Tree Removal**

June 28, 2021

Marlo Pratt made a motion to have North-Eastern Tree Service remove a fallen tree in the cemetery behind the Chapel. They have provided a quote of \$3,980.80. A part of the tree is resting on several gravestones. North-Eastern Tree has a proven record at St. Mary's of safety removing such trees.

Julie Zecher seconded the motion.

Voting yes – Richard U., Chris B., Christine W., Peter C., Lee F., Dave F., Dave B., David S., Mattie G., George L., Matt S.

Motion passed.