

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING
MINUTES
January 27, 2022

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

Guests: Ron Machtley, John Corbishley, Ray Edler, and Ted Bierman

The meeting began at 6:01 in the Historic Church, and Ron M. gave a presentation.

Ron's mission was to assess the scope of the work, and what that scope would cost. His conclusions were 1) we are definitely going to need a general contractor and 2) the projected costs, including a 10% contingency, would be \$800-\$900,000. Ron described the historic church as an incredible asset and an historical and religious treasure. It is his thought that we have a fiduciary responsibility to maintain this historic building and pass it on to the next generation in a sustainable fashion. He asked "How much faith do we have to commit to a project of this size?"

We talked about three possible approaches -

- 1) Yes – we go ahead now (starting in April or May) and raise or borrow the money.
- 2) We raise money and not start until we have enough to cover costs.
- 3) The whole thing is too expensive; we just use what money we have to fix and update piecemeal and as we raise money we do more.

The meeting then adjourned from the historic church and moved to the Parish House for further discussion and the rest of the meeting.

[Of our guests, only John Corbishley and Ray Edler stayed for the whole meeting.]

The conversation resumed, focusing on which of the 3 options we thought would be optimal.

Jennifer suggested that we consider the three options presented and then call a special meeting later in the week to actually vote. Richard U. asked "Why do we need to wait?" Let's vote tonight on what direction we want to go in, then do some of the spade work that needs to be done before actually signing a contract.

Chris B. said that communication will be very important. We should vote on how we want to go forward and communicate that effectively to our community.

After a constructive and wide-ranging discussion, the consensus of the vestry was to support option number 1 – i.e., full restoration as soon as possible, once we have determined where we are financially and that we are comfortable with where we are. Jennifer will find out when is the latest date we can sign a contract. Chris B. said he was comfortable with borrowing \$200,000 against confirmed pledges. We can let faith take us the rest of the way.

The Annual Meeting will be the first step in communicating this important project to the church community. Ron will give a presentation via Zoom at this meeting. He and Jennifer and the Vestry will be available to answer questions.

John C. suggested that an important way forward is to create a story everyone can buy into. There is a lot of story surrounding the historic church – we should tap into the very real fact that we are committing to the history and the future of this church and all that goes with it.

Updates – Jennifer

Audio Equipment for Historic Church

Jennifer made a motion to spend \$25,000 on an audio system, so it can be ordered now. (We are facing price increases and lag time in actually receiving the materials.) Lee F. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Unsolicited donation

Jennifer made a motion to assign the \$10,000 donation given in thanksgiving, to the historic church fund. Dave S. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Annual Meeting

The corporation's annual meeting will be held Sunday, February 6, at 10:15 a.m. (right after the worship service), in St. George's Chapel. This will be a hybrid meeting, both in person and online. A Zoom link will be available to all who won't be there in person.

All vestry members are encouraged to attend. Please let Jennifer know if you cannot attend. Matt S. will contact all members of the Historic Church team, and ask them to make a special effort to attend this meeting.

Rector upcoming conference and time away

Jennifer will be having surgery on February 7th. Meaghen Brower will be filling in as needed. Jennifer will be attending a conference of CEEP (Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes) from February 23-26th.

Vestry Retreat

The retreat will be held Friday evening, February 18th and much of the day, Saturday, February 19th. Scott Gunn will be leading the retreat. The focus will be getting to know each other, spiritual nourishment and fun! Dave B. will be holding his online Evening Prayer Service prior

to the meeting right in the Parish House. Everyone on the vestry is urged to attend this service as well.

Reports

Hybrid Church – Lee F.

We have done quite a bit on our way to developing a church that serves folks both in person and online, and we are hoping to continue this effort beyond the pandemic era. We have begun live streaming the Adult Bible Study on Sundays, and this has been tremendously appreciated by folks who cannot make it in to the church. Also, we are hoping to develop a group of people who would act as “digital ushers.” These folks would welcome those attending the service online, and facilitate offering prayers and even making online donations to support the church.

Invite Welcome Connect – Lee F.

Lee shared some new ideas this team had had - making it easier for folks to participate in behind-the-scenes worship preparation, and deliberately thanking folks, especially new members, for participation in ministry. She also reiterated the premise that *Invite, Welcome, Connect* is not a program, but a wider and deeper approach to all ministries.

Jennifer and Mattie will be attending an online Digital Gathering of IWC folks from all over the country on Feb 9th. The focus of this gathering will be “How to invite, welcome and connect to those of our congregation that on are our digital front doorstep” and “How to reconnect with members of our pre-COVID faith community.”

Vestry Nominations and Delegates for Convention – Christine W.

Nominations for vestry are complete: Anne Wood to complete a 2-year term: John Corbishley, Rita Verespry and Ray Edler, each for 3-year terms. Delegates to convention: from the vestry – Richard U. with Ray E. as alternate: from the congregation – Dave F. with Harry Gustafson as alternate.

Stewardship Campaign – Christine W.

Christine handed out an overview of the progress of the 2021-22 Stewardship Campaign. Overall, we have received (thus far) 112 pledges for a total amount pledged of \$261,444.00

Property Report – George L.

- We have awarded the contract for painting and repairs to the Rectory to Bruno Painting. We are waiting for a start date from the company.
- The pole for the solar light for the lower parking lot is due by the end of January.
- We are having some new benches made to replace the ones that are falling apart. They cost about \$450 each. George asked about putting a notice in the enews asking if anyone would be interested in contributing money to “buy a bench.”

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Dave S. and seconded by Chris W. that we accept the Consent Agenda, consisting of the December Vestry Minutes and Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

The Vestry had a little celebration to mark the end of the terms of Chris Bartlett, David Spengler, David Ferkinhoff and Christine Winslow, and to thank them for all their work and contributions to the ministry and work of St. Mary's.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk