

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
June 28, 2018

**Present:** Junior Warden-Paul Westrom, Treasurer- Chris Bartlett, Clerk– Mattie Gustafson, Trish Culver, Julie Zecher, Dave Ferkinhoff, Jenny Williams, David Brierley, Peter Collins and the Rector- the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick. Gabe Giella was also present.

**Absent:** Chris Barker, Michelle Freitas, and Murry Edwards, Senior Warden. Steven Downing has resigned from the Vestry.

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:04 with a prayer, entitled *For the One Who Holds Power* by J. O'Donoghue.

St. Mary's Mission Statement and Priorities for the Year were reviewed.

**Bible Study-** Acts: 26, 27, and 28. (The *end* of the book of Acts!) We discussed what the Vestry might study next. Suggestions included: reading along with *The Path* (which will be offered for everyone starting in September); a book from the Old Testament, possibly *Genesis*; Paul's letters and discussing how he solved problems in the congregations he served. No decision was made.

**Consent Agenda**

Jennifer made a motion, seconded by Dave B. that we accept the Consent Agenda, which included the Minutes, the Junior Warden's Report (Property /HCRT) and the Financial Report for May. The motion passed.

**Congregational Development**

*Invite, Welcome, Contact: a Method for Growing the Church*

Linda Drummond was present to give a presentation on the conference she recently attended, explaining this approach, developed by Mary Parmer and now based at the Episcopal Divinity School at Sewanee (TN). Linda was adamant that this was not a program (to be explored and then forgotten) but a change in the ethos and culture of the church – which would be implemented gradually over 3 years.

This approach is based on the belief that St. Mary's is not there just for the people who "belong" but for the people we don't know yet (and who don't know us), who might come to "belong."

There is a lot of assistance available: training workshops, training videos, a self-assessment piece, sample mission statements based on this radical welcoming ethos, etc. Mary Palmer is also publishing a book in August (through Forward Movement) that will help.

Next steps: The Rector and the Vestry need to approve moving forward. Linda – who will head this effort – will put a team together.

Peter cautioned that there are some big jobs associated with this approach, and we need to be careful not to bite off too much and to be sure to adapt whatever is suggested to our own, particular set of circumstances.

The Vestry has accepted that we have a responsibility to get St. Mary's to a sustainable level – congregation-wise and finance-wise. The consensus of the Vestry is therefore, to support and endorse moving forward with this effort.

### **Christian Formation Plans – Gabe Giella**

Gabe very briefly described his plans for the upcoming Fall.

1. *The Path: A Journey Through the Bible* – using this as a focal point for Bible study on a weeknight – with an accompanying simple dinner
2. *Walk in Love: Episcopal Believes and Practices* – on Sunday mornings

Both of these programs run for 26 weeks (we would break these weeks up, doing 4-6 week sessions at a time). Thus we would have a year-long consistent program going on.

### **The Vestry went into Executive Session**

#### **Rector's Time**

*The Reserve Fund –*

Jennifer made a motion that we create a Reserve Fund to be used solely for the purpose of capital improvements and maintenance. Seconded by Paul W.

Discussion

- This is a *best practices* for managing assets in many institutions
- This would help us plan for deferred maintenance that never seems to get done.
- Granting organizations like to see the existence of such a fund

- Looking forward, 10% of the money we raise for the historic church renovations should go into such a fund for long term maintenance.

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

**Important Upcoming Dates**  
**Executive Committee Meeting – July 19<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m.**  
**Vestry Meeting – July 26<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk