

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
July 26, 2018

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

Absent: Treasurer- Chris Bartlett and Jenny Williams.

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:01.

Paul W. requested that copies of the *Vestry Covenant* and *Norms for Communication* be made and posted at our meeting site. St. Mary's *Mission Statement* and *Priorities for the Year* were reviewed.

Bible Study- *John 6:1-21*

This is the gospel for the upcoming Sunday. Jennifer introduced and used the Lambeth Bible Study Method, which is currently being used at the Contemplative Prayer and Scripture Study being offered on Saturdays before the 5pm service.

Consent Agenda

Paul W. made a motion, seconded by Michelle F. that we accept the Consent Agenda, which included the Minutes and the Financial Report for June. The motion passed.

Investment Committee

It was determined that, according to our By-Laws, the Vestry is responsible for appointing members to this committee yearly, in March, and that we had neglected to do so.

[Here is the relevant passage from SMC's By-Laws: "**Investment Committee.** A committee of no less than three members of the Parish, one of whom shall be the Parish treasurer, one another member of the vestry, and the other(s) elected by the vestry annually in March to serve at the vestry's pleasure."]

Murry E. made the following motion: I move that the Vestry appoint Chris Bartlett, Jeff Belden, Ted Bierman and Michelle Freitas to the St. Mary's Investment Committee until March 31, 2019. The motion was seconded by Paul W. and passed unanimously.

Paul W. and Murry E. will inform incoming and outgoing members of the Investment Committee about this vote.

Congregational Development

Jennifer began this session by asking, "How's it going for the Vestry, as leaders? Do we have what we need to enable our priorities? What do we want as leaders?" Responses and discussion followed.

- Paul W. needs help! We discussed how we might help Paul and how we might better communicate his needs – for both labor and money to support this labor – to our members.
- Michelle said she wanted people to want God in their lives, and make that their reason for coming to church.
- Peter said we need to continue the 2-way conversations we had started (Coffee and Conversation) on a regular basis.
- Mattie suggested that the breakdown of the "commission system" left a social and communication vacuum that has not been filled. She was not sure putting such a system back in force was the answer, but we need ways to come together around ministry.
 - Murry agreed to look into what might be done to renew? replace? reinvigorate? the commission system.

Fall Program

Much is being planned! Some possibilities include

1. A monthly pot-luck dinner after the 5pm Worship Service
2. A Bible-a-thon – reading the entire Bible (!) within 72 hours. This would be as a prelude to our year-long, parish-wide Bible Study using *The Path*.
3. On Sat., Sept 22nd we are planning a pot-luck dinner and a presentation of the Portsmouth Community Theater's production entitled *Stories from the Churchyard*.

Jennifer asked that all members of the Vestry make an effort to invest in the ministries that St. Mary's plans to offer this fall.

Problem with Scheduling Worship Ministers and Coffee Hour Providers.

The problem: Folks are scheduled and don't show up. They ask for a replacement, using the software's mechanism; no one volunteers; no one follows up; that spot is therefore, not covered.

Problem with software? Problem with administration of software? Problem with no one actually taking ownership of the issue? It was certainly the consensus that we get a “group” together to discuss fixing this problem.

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

Linda D. has a list of people she is inviting to join her team. She has ordered books on the topic. Things are progressing.

Funding Ministry and Managing Assets –

The work continues. Chris Bartlett continues to work on clarifying Endowment numbers.

Other Actions and Thoughts

- The Executive Committee was urged to keep in mind all the issues that the above discussions brought up.
- Dave F. agreed to look into grants that might be available for process improvements.
- A great big THANK YOU to Dave F. for all his hard work on writing grants for the HCRT. They are all in now, and we are waiting for responses!
- Jennifer asked Michelle F. and Chris Barker to write up a brief blurb about Family Camp at ECC for our ENews.

The next Vestry Meeting will be August 23rd and will include a potluck barbecue at the Rectory.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Important Upcoming Dates

Executive Committee Meeting – August 16th at 5:30 p.m.

Worship on the Beach – August 19th at 10:00 a.m.

Vestry Meeting – August 23rd at 6:00 p.m., at the Rectory.

Worship, Potluck and *Stories from the Churchyard* –

September 22nd beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk