

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
July 25, 2019

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

Absent: Michelle Freitas

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with prayers from the *Book of Common Prayer*. She announced that Murry would chair the meeting.

Murry reviewed our Mission, Ministry Priorities and Leadership Goals.

Congregational Development

Invite, Welcome Connect

The Vestry discussed Chapter Two in the IWC book – Invite. Some points and issues discussed include:

- The possibility of adding (or making use of) Twitter and Instagram, in addition to Facebook, as an avenue of invitation, as well as information for people.
- Jennifer suggested that the IWC Committee become more structured – hold regular, monthly meetings, set concrete goals and a timeline.
- At the May 23rd meeting it was decided that the Vestry would ask the IWC Committee to present three forums, during the summer, in order that the congregation might become better acquainted with what's going on, and become excited and involved with IWC. The Vestry still thinks this is a good idea.
- Peter C. said that it was important to have realistic expectations – and that congregational involvement would vary from person to person, but that we should all acknowledge the importance of this effort and come together at whatever level of involvement, working toward one goal.
- Mattie pointed out that there is a gap between welcoming new people and actually connecting these new members to specific ministries.
- Jennifer and Karen L. will meet with David S. and the IWC Committee to help address closing this gap.

David S. passed out a draft of the flyer announcing our Beach Worship (August 18th). Suggestions made included adding the web URL, and perhaps even the Facebook and Instagram logo to the flyer. David will send final draft of the pdf to Mattie for inclusion on the website.

It was suggested that we create a check list of all the steps involved in programming – to make sure all avenues of marketing and communication are covered for each program.

Fall Schedule

Jennifer reported that she is learning a lot from all the feedback she has been getting with regard to the change to one Sunday service in the Fall. She shared these responses – some positive, some negative – and she and the staff are working to respond.

Jennifer's initial thoughts on a schedule for worship through the winter are

- Fall (September through November) – in the Historic Church
- Advent – in St. George's Chapel
- Christmas Eve and Christmas Day – as last year
- Winter (cold weather) – in St. George's Chapel.

This proposed schedule will be shared with parishioners at the Coffee and Conversation scheduled for August 4th.

Reorganization for Growth

A Worship Guild and a Service Guild are now meeting regularly. Leaders are starting to emerge for each area of ministry.

After 50 years on the Guild, and 27 years as Chair, Millie Cozzens is retiring as Head of the Altar Guild. Ann Gizzi and Ruth Siebens will be co-chairs going forward. A special coffee hour will be held on August 25th to honor and thank Millie for her dedication and commitment to this important ministry.

Old Business

Paul W. made a motion, seconded by Dave F. that we go into Executive Session to discuss a tenant issue. The motion passed. Tenant issues were discussed.

Chris B. made a motion, seconded by Paul W. that we come out of Executive Session. The motion passed.

Minutes for June 2019

Chris B. made a motion, seconded by Chris W. that we accept the minutes, as amended, for the June 2019 meeting. The motion passed.

Sea Rose Montessori School

Jennifer met with our legal counsel and he advised us to not make any donation at this time to Sea Rose School, and that it is important that both parties clearly acknowledge the

rights and responsibilities outlined in the current lease. Jennifer will write a letter to Sea Rose informing them of this.

Computer Update

Dave B's report is on Basecamp and it outlines the tremendous amount of work he has accomplished with respect to re-configuring our entire computer system. The Wi-Fi works! Praise God – and David!

Treasurer's Report

Chris B. outlined the Treasurer's 6-month report and review. Things are going in the right direction with respect to income. Pledges have increased and our draw on the Endowment has decreased.

The Vestry would like to remind all members that, as Peter C. said, our efforts – to increase our membership and to maintain and even increase this level of giving - must continue.

We still have some unexpected expenses we need to deal with, as well as a utility bill that keeps rising.

As a way to begin working on that Utility bill problem, Chris B. has started looking closely at who uses our building, what it costs for us to support this outside use, and what these organizations are paying to help us with these costs. Also, Paul W. has arranged for an energy audit. (Details later in the minutes.)

Dave S. made a motion, seconded by Chris W., that we accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

New Business

The Rector reported on the corrected notice of an accord between Bishop Knisely and the Rev. John Alexander.

Energy Audit

Paul W. reported on the Energy Audit just recently completed. (The complete report is on Basecamp.) After some discussion, action on this issue was tabled until the August meeting. Paul will go back to National Grid and see if there is any way to shave more money off the proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk