

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES – Via ZOOM  
May 28, 2020

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

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:02 p.m. with a moment of silence, a scripture reading and a prayer.

The Vestry reviewed St. Mary's mission.

**Financials – Chris Bartlett**

Chris presented the Financial Report including the report for the first quarter of the year (January – April 2020) and went over some highlights. He plans to rework the entire budget, taking into account all the unexpected changes that have occurred this year. Going forward he is sure we are going to see even more significant changes, especially with regard to facilities use income and investment earnings.

Chris said that it is a testament to what a strong congregation we are that our pledge income has not been affected in a major way thus far. Kudos to all who continue to contribute remotely.

**Investment Committee – Murry Edwards**

Murry moved that we appoint the following people to the SMC Investment Committee to serve until March 31, 2021: Chris Bartlett (ex officio), Jeff Belden, Ted Bierman and Christine Winslow. Chris B. seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

**Moving Forward Task Force – Murry Edwards**

This Task Force, which is anticipating operating for 12-18 months, consists of Jennifer Pedrick, Murry Edwards, David Brierley, Marlo Pratt, George LeBlanc, David Spengler and Karen LaRoche. They have been meeting weekly for 3 weeks now. Their mission is to assess and make decisions on changes in church activities and issues occasioned by the COVID-19 quarantine.

Murry sent out to all Vestry members their first report entitled *Decision Making in the Time of Pandemic*. This report details what factors will be taken into account when making decisions.

The Task Force has been working right now on planning for outdoor worship services. They hope to begin holding outdoor worship on the last Sunday in June. There are plans in the works for people to be present (in their cars), sitting on the lawn (in a socially distant manner) or to live stream from home.

This is something so new to us, that we are not sure exactly how things will go. Chris B. said we need to give ourselves permission to stumble and make mistakes. Peter C. suggested lots of dry runs. AND we need money to buy equipment necessary for such an undertaking. Specifically, for: a quality sound system, a radio transmitter, a stage (portable) and a tent (in case of inclement weather).

Paul suggested the Task Force really needs to assess their needs, gather some more definitive information and put together a proposed budget. Murry suggested that this investigation be done, a budget proposal be drawn up, and that we then hold a special Vestry meeting to approve said budget.

The question of renting vs buying the equipment came up, and Paul said that buying makes more sense. We have always needed an outdoor sound system and a stage – and it would be a positive thing to have all this equipment at our disposal, even if normality returns.

Chris B. will ask a friend he has at Newport Tent if they would help us with the purchase of a tent. Julie's husband uses sound systems and record tracks, and he may also have some advice and expertise that would help us.

### **Request for Signage – Murry Edwards**

Murry and the Task Force is requesting \$2490 to purchase a number of signs to help direct folks around the SMC campus. We have a number of people using our campus now for walks and meditation, and this is a window for evangelism that we can open more widely with helpful and welcoming signage.

Murry moved that we spend \$2490 on additional signage. Chris W. seconded the motion, which passed.

### **Staff Issues – Jennifer Pedrick**

The staff needs a break / vacation, and they decided that, given current circumstances and future plans, it would be good to take a 1-week vacation at the same time. Therefore: all the

staff will be on vacation from June 8<sup>th</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Connecting with Each Other – Jennifer Pedrick**

Every Monday SMC puts out an email called *Connecting with Each Other*. Jennifer asked if all Vestry members would be willing to write a short piece for this communication. Murry will put out a schedule. Please sign up.

**Consent Agenda**

Murry made a motion, seconded by all present, that the Consent Agenda, consisting of the minutes from the April Vestry meeting, and the Treasurer's Report for April, be accepted. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m. with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk