

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
March 1, 2018 (February Meeting)

Present: Senior Warden- Murry Edwards, Treasurer- Chris Bartlett, Junior Warden-Paul Westrom, Rector- the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick, Michelle Freitas, Trish Culver, Chris Barker David Brierly, Julie Zecher and Peter Collins.

Absent: Clerk– Mattie Gustafson, Jenny Williams, Steve Downing Dave Ferkinhoff.

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:04 with a prayer. The vestry leadership covenant was read aloud. The mission statement "St. Mary's Episcopal Church is a community of Christian worship, well-being and service" was also read. Ministry Priorities for 2018 were also read, reviewed and affirmed.

Bible Study- Acts :18 and 19.

Consent Agenda

Murry Edwards made a motion, seconded by Chris Bartlett that we accept the Consent Agenda, which included the Minutes for January, and the Property Report and Financial Report for January. The motion passed.

Parochial Report 2017

The report has nearly been completed by Chris Bartlett and will be presented to the Diocese. Chris explained that the report was essentially a "tax return" and helped calculate the amount owed for our apportionment. There was a brief explanation regarding the endowment. Chris explained that the goal is to continue to reduce the draw from the endowment.

Sarah Gibbs Trustee

With the departure of Christian Meyers, there is an open slot as a trustee. The vestry discussed filling the slot with representation from all of the classes (years) on the vestry. Responsibilities of the trustee are to attend meetings as they are scheduled. Michelle Freitas offered to take the position. Jennifer made the motion to accept her assuming the position, which was seconded by Paul and agreed on by a unanimous vote.

Historic Registry Motion

Alex Allardt was welcomed to the meeting to discuss applying for inclusion on the National Historic Registry. There is a fee of \$1500 if the architect files this application on our behalf. If Alex does it, there is no fee. Alex explained the application process and will complete the application. After some explanation of the process and the advantages of doing this, the main reason being requesting and receiving state and federal grant monies for work on the historic church. The motion made by Jennifer was, "I move that the vestry authorize Alex Allardt to apply for historic status for the church under the National Registry of Historic Places and the Rhode Island State Registry of Historic Places." The motion was seconded by Murry. The motion passed unanimously.

Property Report

There was discussion regarding the renovation and use of the Gibbs house for the Sea Rose Montessori School. The school owner is very excited about this project, as they are outgrowing their space in the Parish house. Priscilla Cousins, manager of the thrift shop has been told of this proposal as the thrift shop would no longer occupy the building. Renovations would include the installation of another bathroom. St. Mary's would have to expend about \$10,000 to upgrade fire and sprinkler system. Paul Westrom made this motion: "I move that St. Mary's Church proceed with the Sea Rose Montessori School to renovate the Gibbs House and to lease the Gibbs House to the Sea Rose Montessori School at terms agreeable to their board and our vestry." It was approved by unanimous vote after being seconded by Chris Bartlett. Chris Barker will look at the rules for leasing church property with regard to any restrictions on the length of lease allowed by canon law.

Paul Westrom also made this motion, "that St. Mary's install energy efficient lighting in accordance with National Grid and RISE energy savings plans." It was seconded by Chris Barker and accepted unanimously.

Historic Church Issues

Hope to have all work completed in time to have Holy Week services in the historic building.

Rector's Time

The Rector presented in very general terms some unhealthy patterns of communication and systemic issues impacting our congregation. After a brief discussion amongst the Vestry, Jennifer and Gabe "acted out" some scenarios and some "do's" and "don'ts" with

regard to conversations and behaviors of some church members. Vestry members agree to work on these problems and not participate in negative conversations and gossip. We discussed triangulation, how to deal with complaints effectively and how to respond to inappropriate behavior. We explored ways of directing and connecting complaints to the person with whom they are concerned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

**Important upcoming meetings -
Holy Week
Next vestry meeting March 22, 2018**

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia M. Culver for
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk