

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
May 23, 2019

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

Absent: Treasurer-Chris Bartlett, Trish Culver, and David Spengler.

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:02 with "The Easter Collect" from *Liturgy for the Whole Church*.

Murry reviewed our Mission, Ministry Priorities and Leadership Goals.

Congregational Development

Invite, Welcome Connect

The Vestry had been asked to read Chapter 1 of the *Invite, Welcome, Connect* book and we began by discussing what, in this chapter, stood out as meaningful for our church.

Sharing the "program" with all church members

One idea that seemed well worth adapting was presenting three separate forums for the whole congregation wherein the IWC Committee shared the philosophy and essential goals of each part of that ministry – and also pointed out the importance of a commitment of each member of the congregation to this ministry's success.

We will ask the IWC Committee to plan 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.

Inviting people to church

Inviting people to church is not a part of the Episcopal church culture. It requires stepping way out of our comfort zone. This kind of effort is always easier if you have some kind of plan or some concrete strategies on how to proceed. Information sheets (with sample dialogues and suggested wording) and role playing activities could be developed to make this whole process easier.

Jennifer will look into getting a pamphlet on "Evangelism for Shy People" for everyone to look at.

Smart Money (with Michelle) and the **Soup Kitchen** are wonderful ways to connect with people and those activities can sometimes serve as a bridge to inviting and encouraging people to actually attend a church service.

Murry will put the latest *Invite, Welcome, Connect* report on Basecamp. The Vestry's assignment for our next meeting is to read Chapter 2 and look over the questions at the end of the chapter.

Computer Update

Dave B. reports that our new computer system will be installed on Monday, June 17th (probably spilling over into the morning of Tuesday, June 18th). There was a \$200 charge (for various software packages) that Dave had forgotten to include in his original estimate, but that is more than made up for with his discovery that we can use Google Suite for Non-Profits – which is free.

Each Staff member and each Officer of the Vestry will have an @smcportsmouth.org email address that they can use for “official” business.

Coffee and Conversation

Murry reported that the first of two summer Coffee and Conversations will take place on Sunday, June 23rd after the 9:00 a.m. service. Topics to be the focus of our discussions are the Historic Church Restoration Project and the new/old/fall Worship schedule.

Consent Agenda

Dave B. made a motion, seconded by Chris W., that the Consent Agenda, consisting of the minutes from the April Vestry meeting (held on May 3rd) and the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The motion passed.

Peter C. congratulated everyone on the hard work and perseverance that was required to make the budget numbers read so well. He urged everyone to remember that effort and commitment was required to get where we are now, and more effort and commitment will be needed to carry this success into the future.

Property

Paul W. gave a brief report on the on-going bid effort for the roof replacement. We have another company looking at the job and that bid should be in by next week.

Our new sign and its placement are still in “town of Portsmouth limbo.”

Additional Concerns

Dave F. brought up the issue of thanking and acknowledging the work done by the commissions in the church, especially the Pastoral Care Commission, which is working very well and does some incredible work with our sick and shut-in parishioners.

Jennifer, with the assistance of Murry and Chris W. will “throw a party” to acknowledge the work done by this dedicated group of people. Chris W. was tasked with the responsibility of sending out an email to remind people of the planning meeting. This event will be held sometime in July.

Also – Dave F. will ask the people on the commission if anyone would like to serve as a liaison to the Invite, Welcome, Connect Group.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk