

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2021

Present: Senior Warden-Marlo Pratt, Junior Warden-George LeBlanc, Treasurer-David Brierley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Julie Zecher, Chris Winslow, Peter Collins, Richard Updegrove, Lee Ferreira, Chris Bartlett, David Spengler, Dave Ferkinhoff, Matt Spohn, and the Rector- the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:05 p.m. by reading a prayer from *The Book of Common Prayer*, and then read St. Mary's mission.

Gathering together in the presence of God

Vestry Covenant – Mattie G.

Mattie began by explaining that she had looked at both the list of "Qualities a Vestry Leader Should Have" compiled at the last Vestry meeting and the Vestry Covenant that had been approved in 2017. She tried to incorporate the ideas and language of those two documents into the new covenant. Jennifer suggested we adjust some of the verbs to reflect a more active tense, and there were a few more single word changes suggested that Mattie will incorporate into the covenant as well. Chris B. suggested that we share this covenant with the congregation and put it on the website.

Christine W. moved that we accept the Vestry Covenant with the changes that were suggested. David S. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Goals and Strategies for SMC 2021 and planning for 2022

Peter C. guided us through this discussion via zoom!

First the Vestry discussed the 2021 goals – Peter asked "Do these still apply?" Themes that kept emerging were – flexibility, communication, making use of our beautiful campus including outdoor worship, managing our resources. It is obvious that we still have some moving parts and some unknowns.

Another issue mentioned was doing more with listening, and being more pro-active in soliciting input and feedback from the congregation. We had been doing Sunday Coffee and Conversations on a regular basis, but COVID interrupted that activity. We should resume these get-togethers on a regular basis. Richard U. said that we should not miss the opportunity the Annual Meeting affords us to request and facilitate congregational input. This would demonstrate that as a Vestry we are receptive to the members' ideas and thoughts.

Marlo made an important observation: We have set some very high standards with regard to worship and other church ministries this past year, despite a number of COVID difficulties. We cannot keep this momentum going, however, with the limited number of people who have

committed to working in these ministries. Marlo used the metaphor of a train running down the track – going well and at a decent speed, but about to run out of coal. The people currently responsible for much of our success are low on coal!

There is also a deeper issue here, and that is where are we going now? We are, once again, in a totally new position with very little precedent on how to move forward.

Richard U. suggested an outside consultant might help.

Marlo thought another staff person might be needed to help us carry on, and especially to assist with broadening our ministry towards children and families.

The discussion of goals for 2022 concluded with Jennifer repeating these two questions:

1. Where is our momentum right now? What is going well?
2. What's missing? Where are the gaps in our ministry?

The Vestry should continue to think further about goals and suggest answers to these questions. Goals don't need to be overly complicated; there is beauty in simplicity.

Updates – Jennifer

Discernment and Continuing Education

Jennifer presented a proposal for a period of pilgrimage and discernment, and a continuing education opportunity in spiritual direction that she would like to participate in. After some discussion, David S. made a motion that the Vestry agree that Jennifer participate in 1) a 6-week pilgrimage, and 2) a 2-year online course in spiritual direction. David F. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Historic Church Renovation

Ron Machtley has begun his 2-month process of appraisal and study of the historic church renewal project and where it stands now.

On the grant front, we were awarded a \$150,000 grant from the McBean Foundation. The van Beuren Foundation said “no” – this time.

The work continues.

Budget Update – Dave B.

David B. presented the draft budget for 2022, which includes an increase of \$57,000. He is continuing to finalize all figures.

George brought up the bids that he had gotten so far for the painting and repair of the Rectory and asked for authorization to sign a contract, and lock in the bid amount of \$44,935. (This project will come out of the 2022 budget.) Dave S. moved that the Vestry give George the

authority to sign the contract with Bruno Painting. The motion was seconded by Richard U. Motion passed.

Jr. Warden and Property – George L.

The solar light for the lower parking lot has arrived. The pole to hang it on, however, has not. Jon is planning to rig something up, while we wait for the pole to arrive.

St. Mary's participation in the Diocesan solar initiative was discussed. The SMC Investment Committee had looked over the various levels of support solicited for this project and decided that it was not worth it to invest additional funds. We will continue to participate at the "zero-cost" option.

Dave B. made a motion that we affirm our participation in the ECC Solar Panel project at the 0-cost level. George seconded the motion. The motion passed.

George thanked everyone who showed up for the Clean-Up Sunday. It was a great success.

Stewardship – Chris W.

Chris W. gave an update on the pledge drive so far. We have received 87 pledges for a total of \$221,000. If the people who pledged last year pledge this year at the same level, that would bring in \$48,000 more – for a grand total of \$269,500 in pledges. This is very good news.

Vestry members will make individual calls next week to those who still have not pledged by then. Chris will supply a script, cards and contact information. She will send out an email and asks that those who plan to participate confirm that participation.

Invite, Welcome, Connect – Lee F.

Lee presented the IWC report that had been sent out to the Vestry prior to the meeting. We have been meeting every month, and have some IWC activities planned for the upcoming Advent, Christmas, Epiphany season. We are also working on showing the various ministries how to include the principles of invite, welcome and connect directly into their operations.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Dave S. and seconded by Richard U. that we accept the Consent Agenda, consisting of the October Vestry Minutes and Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk