

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING
MINUTES
October 20, 2022

Present: Senior Warden-Marlo Pratt, Junior Warden-George LeBlanc, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Richard Updegrove, Lee Ferreira, Rita Verespy, and the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

Present via Zoom: Peter Collins

Absent: Ray Edler, John Corbishley, Ann Wood, Matt Spohn, Julie Zecher and Treasurer-David Brierley

Jennifer called the meeting to order at 6:04. She read the collect that she will be using on November 13th, for the dedication of a church.

Reconnecting with Each Other in the Presence of God - Jennifer

Jennifer read a bible passage and then asked "What are your memories of how you learned your faith?" Two common threads in the following discussion were:

- The importance of an adult role model (father, mother, grandparent, etc.) in bringing children to faith.
- The importance of the leaders' role in equipping other adults (parents, grandparents) to share their faith.

Important question – "Will our faith have children?"

Discussion of our priorities for 2023 - Jennifer

A lively discussion followed. Here are some ideas that were brought forward –

- We need to continue what we have started here.
- There is a deep spiritual feeling in this place.
- Trust in our leadership
- Unity – the one service brings us all together for worship and sharing community
- Invite, Welcome, Connect needs to grow and continue its important function
- We are down to a skeleton leadership in our various ministries. These need to be built up again.
- We should focus on deepening our spirituality.
- It is our faith that got us here, but now God is calling us to go deeper.

Jennifer brought up the issue of a second priest. In order to grow beyond what we are doing now; our staff needs to grow as well. A second priest would support the growth of our mission and ministry. There was discussion around this issue as well –

- We need to be very clear what the role and duties of this priest would be.

- We also need to be very clear about the organizational hierarchy – who is responsible for what and who reports to whom.
- We have a brand-new organ and no organist. Maybe we can hire an organist for special services.

Jennifer made a motion that we amend our current Mission Statement to add the phrase “of all ages, grounded in...” George L. seconded the motion.

The Mission Statement would read – “St Mary’s is a Christian community of all ages, grounded in worship, well-being and service.”

Discussion

- Peter suggested this would make the Mission Statement too long? Mission statements need to be memorable and repeatable.
- Richard said the suggested amendment is focused on a present need.
- Rita said a Mission Statement should be aspirational. It is our intention to be a community of all ages.
- Peter said “They need us and we need them.”
- Jennifer said it was incredibly important for her to include children and families in our Mission Statement. This is not just a throw-away phrase. It is our hope and intention,

The motion passed.

The Executive Committee will look at this discussion and the priorities brought up and digest them into a proposal for our goals and priorities for next year.

Stewardship Report – Rita V.

Pledge cards are in the mail. As in past years, the Vestry is being asked to pledge first, as an example to others. Vestry members should have their pledges in by Halloween. Rita will send an email reminder to Vestry members now, and 3 days before they are due.

All other pledge cards are due November 13th. The Ingathering and the Celebration of the Historic Church will be on the same Sunday! Pledges will be opened within the week, and people who have pledged will get a thank-you note. Calling folks who have not pledged will also happen. Rita will decide when and let folks know.

Historic Church Update – Jennifer

We are REALLY CLOSE!!! The church is coming together beautifully. November 13th should be a wonderful celebration of all the work and commitment that has gone into making this renovation a reality.

Property – Junior Warden Report – George L.

Lightning Rod Issue

George mentioned the issue of lightning rods. It would cost \$20,000 to install these rods plus \$7-8,000 for surge protection. Our insurance does not require lightning rods and will cover losses due to a lightning strike, with a \$2500 deductible. In light of this, George recommended that we not install lightning rods. The Executive Committee supported this decision.

We do have one lightning rod on the church, which rod is not attached to the ground! Bob V. is determining how much it would cost to connect this one rod. But we need to either connect it or take it down.

The perimeter around the historic church

George had asked Ron if there was any money left to help repair the driveway around the outside of the historic church.

- Repave the north side of the driveway - \$26,000.
- Seal the south side - \$4200
- Replace asphalt curbing - \$4400

Ron will fix the area directly in front of both exits (back and side), but will not have enough money to cover these other expenses. George recommends that this does not have to be done this year. The Executive Committee affirmed this decision.

The Rectory

Is finally done! George has found a local handyman to do some minor repairs. There is a need to clean the basement, and he has a quote of \$2300 for that. He will move forward with this clean-up, the cost of which will come out of the Buildings and Grounds current budget.

Insurance Review

It has been noted that we have spent a considerable amount on renovating our historic church – and there are some items, both in the church and elsewhere, that have some historic importance and value. George asked if there was any mention of these “important items” in our insurance policy. We will task Dave B. to find out if our insurance policy –

- reflects the restoration of the church
- needs riders to cover the “important things” such as the rood screen, the *Della Robia* art work, the organ, sound system, computer, and camera.

Consent Agenda

Richard made a motion, seconded by George, that we pass the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Vestry Minutes and Treasurer's Report for September. The motion passed.

NEW MEETING DATES FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND VESTRY

- Executive Committee - Wednesday, November 16th at 10:00 a.m.
- Vestry Meeting – Thursday, November 17th at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. with the exhortation to "Go and serve the Lord."

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson