

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
October 25, 2018

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

Absent: Treasurer- Chris Bartlett, Trish Culver, Jenny Williams, and Chris Barker

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:00 with a prayer.

Bible Study- *The Path*, pp 39-50 – The stories of Jacob and Esau and Joseph.

Consent Agenda

Michelle F. made a motion, seconded by Dave F. that we accept the Consent Agenda, which included the Minutes for September 2018. The motion passed.

Rainbow Flag proposal

It has been suggested that St Mary's should display a Rainbow Flag as a sign that we are a welcoming and inclusive community. It demonstrated to all that we have the courage to proclaim our inclusiveness, and gives witness to our commitment to transforming lives and our church.

Jennifer made a motion that we fly the Rainbow Flag. Paul W. seconded the motion. the motion passed unanimously.

Mattie will look into making sure our website indicates our desire to be a welcoming and inclusive community.

New Sign/ Directional Signs

Jennifer shared the designs for a new big sign at our entrance way, and several directional signs to help folks find their way around our campus. Two changes are going to be made to the current drawings: 1) Masses will change to services, 2) Instead of saying "All are welcome" the sign will read "You matter here."

We have \$5050, a gift from a parishioner, to purchase these signs, but right now the total cost of the package is set at \$8950. Jennifer will try to negotiate the price.

By-Laws

The Standing Committee asked for some changes to the updated By-Laws we submitted and Dave F. made those minor changes. Paul W. moved and Dave B. seconded that we approve the By-laws as amended. The motion passed. Murry will send them back to the Standing Committee.

Invite, Welcome Connect

The leaders of this committee tried a new approach to encourage others to take ownership and be a part of this effort, and it looks like this new approach did result in more folks willing to participate. Training for this core group will start in November.

Peter C. stated that *Invite, Welcome, Connect* is probably the most important thing we will do in the upcoming year. The Vestry has to be supportive and directly involved. This – which is basically a culture change – is a very deep and long process and has the potential for being transformational for our church.

Murry agreed and said the Vestry needs to get the book being used, should be included on the emails and encouraged to watch the videos.

HRT Funding

Peter C. offered thank yous to all who have been working so hard in this effort. To date, we have collected (money and pledges) \$184,000! (Stage 2 is estimated to cost approximately \$400,000 – with \$200,000 coming from parishioners and \$200,000 coming from grants. We are so close to that \$200,000!)

There are still 3 or 4 grants out there that we will hear about towards the end of the year.

St. Mary's has received state approval

- 1) to be listed on the State Registry of Historic Sites and
- 2) to seek federal listing on the National Historic Register.

The State Architectural Historian is taking on the research and preparation of the federal nomination, *pro bono*. This research will probably take about 6+ months. We then go through another state review to approve the nomination on a technical level. Then it goes to the National Park Service for a formal federal review. In general, this whole process often takes another 14-18 months.

Stewardship

Dave B. reported that his email has gone out. A letter from Jennifer along with pledge cards will go out next week. Harvest Weekend is November 17 and 18. The Vestry discussed the importance of conveying to our membership how important this pledge drive is. And to make what they can do to help very clear:

- 1) Write a check now to help with this year.
- 2) Increase pledges (by 50%) for next year – and do it now.

Another very helpful strategy is to bring a neighbor to church. St. Mary's has had cards made up with our logo and service times. This can be given out to people who might be interested in joining us. Spread the word!

Congregational Development

Service Outreach and Finances

We started the conversation by listing all the wonderful and exciting things that have been happening at St. Mary's over the past year – from the 26 new members we have gained (last year we had 7 new members) - to the incredible success of the Sacred Center and our Sunday and Wednesday Bible Studies – to our worship together – and so much more.

We need to keep this going, and the reality is, that if pledging doesn't increase significantly this year – all these programs and efforts are in jeopardy.

This is the year that our members – old and new – need to step up and invest in the wonderful things that have been happening here.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. with a "God bless!"

Important Upcoming Dates

Executive Committee Meeting – November 15th at 5:30 p.m.

Harvest Weekend - November 17-18

Vestry Meeting – November 29th at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting – December 13th at 5:30 p.m.

Vestry – December 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk