

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
October 24, 2019

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

**Absent:** David Brierley, Dave Ferkinhoff and Chris Winslow

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with a passage from the Bible – “You are the light of the world.”

The Vestry reviewed our Mission, Ministry Priorities and Leadership Goals.

**Congregational Development**

***Invite, Welcome Connect***

The Vestry discussed Chapter Four in the IWC book – Connect.

Mattie thought there were two good ideas in the chapter:

1. Having a team of folks deliberately concerned with connecting with newcomers **and** folks who had been members for a while, but had not been active. (p. 84)
2. The Seeker's Forum mentioned (on p. 86) – one meeting and then 4 weeks connecting via Facebook, etc.

Active listening was an important concept mentioned – along with 2 books on listening that might be interesting to look at.

Jennifer mentioned the 4 questions people are asked at the Welcome Receptions held at her home – 1. How long have you been at St Mary's?

2. Why did you come?

3. Why have you stayed?

4. What do you want/need from God?

Peter said he thought these were good questions to ask anyone, and a good way to connect in a deeper way, with people, not only newcomers. He mentioned having the Vestry share these questions might be a good way to get to know each other better. As the chapter said, sharing people's stories is a powerful way to connect.

Trish suggested putting newcomers' profiles on the ENews. “May we introduce you to....” A question was asked – do we ever ask people why they left? Have a good-bye service?

Trish said we need to be clear about what constitutes “membership” in the church and is there a difference between “membership” and “active membership?”

The Invite, Welcome, Connect initiative is almost a year old now, and it was felt that we needed to be more intentional about its implementation and to create a more settled structure. We have 3 wonderful leaders – they need a core of people around them who will commit to the mission and efforts involved.

St. Mary's is working on re-creating the tracking system for newcomers (that went away with the new computers). We have recreated 2018/2019 online so far. This database is being shared with staff, David Brierley and the leaders of Invite, Welcome, Connect.

Jennifer recently met with Regina Slezak, head of the Connect portion of IWC, and she had many great ideas. She also has some names to contact to be part of her team – to set goals and to begin really implementing these goals.

### **Junior Warden's Report – Paul Westrom**

The good news is that the roof repair is ahead of schedule and half of the new slate should be arriving. Paul's report also detailed some unexpected expenses anticipated with the roof repair project, i.e., replacement of 6 brownstone capstones and 2 additional brownstone capstones on the Bell Tower. It was noted that the Vestry agreed with the necessity of making these un-anticipated repairs and supports the recommendations of Paul and his HCRT Committee. Paul and Chris B., David B., and Peter need to assess the status of all grants, gifts and pledges so as to get a clearer picture of the finances for this project.

Applause and thanks to Paul W. and everyone working on this project for all their hard work and dedication.

The other part of Paul's report dealt with the 3 trees that came down during last week's storm. He and Jon W. are dealing with the situation.

### **Other Business**

#### ***Portsmouth Emergency Action***

Julie Z. said she is renewing her attention to exploring what might be St. Mary's role in future community emergencies. Stay tuned.

#### ***Sacred Ground***

The Social Issues and Service Team, headed by Lynn Carlson-LeBlanc is exploring offering the national Episcopal Church's initiative entitled *Sacred Ground*. This is a series of videos, readings and discussion-based workshops on racism. Details will follow.

#### ***Stewardship***

*Shining Our Light* is this year's theme. The Harvest Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. The speaker that evening will be Michelle Freitas. Michael Templeton will play at the 5:00 p.m. service, held right before the dinner. All pledges are due this weekend.

### ***Staffing for 2020***

Jennifer made the announcement that Gabe Giella, our Director of Christian Formation will be leaving us for a wonderful new opportunity in California. His last day working will be November 16<sup>th</sup>. The Harvest Dinner will also function as a celebration of his ministry at St. Mary's and a fond farewell.

Jennifer discussed staffing issues, etc. moving forward. We need to decide what staffing configuration will best support St. Mary's and its mission and ministries in 2020 and beyond. Murry, Peter and Jennifer are working together to craft a plan. It is also crucial that we build more strength into our lay leaders.

### ***Budget – Chris B.***

There are two main issues facing us as we move into 2020: building maintenance and utilities. Chris is working with the budget and will have a full proposal for our November meeting.

**The date for our November Vestry meeting was changed to Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Senior Warden's Report – Murry Edwards**

#### ***South Parking Lot***

The Trustees passed the proposal submitted to them from the Vestry, and Island Day Care has been notified. It is now up to them to accept or reject. Murry gave a big thanks to all involved – the Vestry – the Sarah Gibbs Trustees – for all the time and effort put into this decision.

### ***2020 Vestry Nominations***

Trish Culver and Michelle Freitas will be going off the Vestry next year. This is also a vacant spot available to be filled. Murry will form a Nominating Committee to come up with some names of folks who fit the criteria and will be willing to serve.

### **Consent Agenda**

Murry E. made a motion, seconded by Paul W., that the Consent Agenda, consisting of the minutes from the September Vestry meeting and the Treasurer's Report, be accepted. The motion passed.

Trish C. made a motion, followed by Paul W. that we adjourn. This motion passed as well!

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk