

The Vestry Meeting was brought to order at 2100 by The Rev. John Spicer.

Attendance

Father John Mother Anne Deacon Bruce Father Jeff Zach Beall Jean Long Lauren Richardson Colleen Simon Bill Aliber Lora Kokjer Jan Ashmore Vin Clark
Bert Cottine Dorothy Curry Stephen Duerst Victoria Fiori Julia Jackson Janet Kelley
Brian Gloe George Kroh Erin Mos Ann Rainey Ann Renne Scott Kirmer Norman Todd Paul Wurth Melissa Rock Cheryl Cementina Susan Paynter (on behalf of Vin Clark)

Checking In

Consent Agenda Approval

- 1) Motion was made by Bill Aliber. Seconded by George Kroh. Unanimously approved.

Opening Prayer by Fr. John. A Prayer For the Human Family (p. 815, BCP)

Special discussion on confronting racism: Becoming Beloved Community

- 1) The Episcopal Church's initiative — "Becoming Beloved Community" (Intro by Fr. John, Presentation by Cheryl and Susan)
 - a) Fr. John introduced Cheryl and Susan to discuss what the parish is planning.
 - i) Cheryl directed everyone to a new page for activities and resources in the messenger and the bulletin on racial reconciliation, events happening locally and in-house activities
 - ii) Paul asked about Diocesan training sessions and if they can happen through Zoom, Cheryl mentioned they have been postponed, due to difficulty in time length of workshop and exercises involved in the day-long workshop, until in-person meetings can happen.
 - iii) Bill asked that interesting articles, books, etc. be communicated through the church's communications outlets. Cheryl will be curating this effort.
 - b) Janet talked about her involvement in Church Women United and how anti-racism training is important in continuing to learn about individual racism vs. systemic racism, white privilege. Dialogue is important to learn from each other. She is always looking for more people to get involved.
- 2) Steps currently being planned for St. Andrew's
 - a) Vestry anti-racism training
 - i) Fr. John mentioned this is a requirement that St. Andrew's should have been doing and will be implementing very soon.
 - b) Anti-racism training available to congregation members
 - c) Participation in public events (St. Augustine's prayer service; Pray on Troost)
 - d) Book and movie discussion groups for adults, guided by Adult Formation

- i) "Traces of The Trade" a film about prominent Episcopal family with ties to the slave trade
 - ii) Diocesan wide book study on "Just Mercy" by Brian Stevenson
 - e) Resources for families; youth discussions
 - i) "A Class Divided" Frontline, PBS (Season 1985, Episode 9) A lesson in discrimination by dividing up a third grade class based upon eye color.
 - f) Diocesan public statements on racial justice
 - 3) Review of a draft statement of Episcopal values for St. Andrew's public use
 - a) Fr. John shared about an email received from a parishioner on the topic of LGBTQ Pride month and the idea of flying a banner or flag at the church.
 - i) Our parish has intentionally steered away from taking a path that takes public stands that could make parishioners feel that their point of view isn't welcome.
 - ii) The ethos of the "Big Tent".
 - iii) He reflected how it's a challenge for the church to balance being a "big tent" for all and limiting the expression of our values.
 - 4) Discussion of how to articulate values clearly in a Big Tent model of church
 - a) Referenced the values statement provided in the E-packet and asked for reactions.
 - b) Members shared extensive and passionate points of view both for and against flying a Pride flag on the church grounds. Several members felt doing so would affirm the full humanity and ministry of LGBTQ people, and several members were concerned that doing so would alienate parishioners who would see the Pride flag as a political statement.
 - i) Brian made a motion to put a rainbow banner up for gay pride month. Ann Rainey seconded.
 - (1) Ann Rainey withdrew her second to the motion in the interest of the group to table the issue and moving the meeting along for the evening.
 - (2) Bill motioned that the discussion be tabled to offer the vestry additional time to reflect and pray on the issue. Paul seconded.
- Vote passed, Yea-13 and Nay-3.

Stewards on the journey: Growing generosity and managing the master's household

- 1) Stewardship update (Stephen Duerst)
 - a) Template is being finalized with recognition of the hardships of 2020.
 - b) Expecting to present to the Vestry by the end of the month.
- 2) Update on major facility issues (Scott Kirmer)
 - a) Engineering firm has turned in first set of plans for the parking lot
 - b) Inspections have passed the city, for sidewalk project. The concrete contractor has been hit with COVID-19 and had to delay the start of construction until next week.\
- 3) Finance highlights, including May financial report (Paul Wurth)
 - a) Pledge income dropped in May, partially due to a shift in planned giving who moved their allocations to later in the summer.

- b) Other income reflects the SBA loan in the amount of \$91,400 that was transferred to the operating account.
- c) Expenses show facilities expenditure are dramatically down.
- d) Non-operating revenue was much higher than expenses.
- e) Liquidity reflects \$153,000
- f) Designated accounts reflects \$774,000
- g) Endowment fund is showing \$1,800,000

Apostles on the journey: Answering the call to proclaim good news and make disciples

- 1) Worship attendance (Fr. John)
 - a) Children's participation is up 13% from last year
 - b) Youth participation is up 43% - and that's with mostly online gatherings.
 - c) Young adult has shown 129 people have gathered.
 - d) Adult formation shows that attendance is down at this time.
 - e) Worship attendance is down from last year. Currently at 14 weeks of online-only worship at this point.
- 2) Welcoming a parish reporter to strengthen communications (Fr. John)
 - a) We do a good job of telling what is coming but we have not done a good job of telling what we have done and why it matters.
 - b) We have tried to do this on a volunteer basis.
 - c) Adam James will morph his role as secretary into also a parish reporter. He has previous experience in other organizations.
- 3) Resuming in-person worship and ministry (Fr. John)
 - a) Some may have heard that St. Mary's has resumed gathering in-person.
 - b) They found a fourteen day period of the virus decline and received permission to open up.
 - c) It was not known by other parishes that they had found this information until they reopened.
 - d) The Executive Committee is examining that data to determine the possibility of re-opening. Communications through email will take place as soon as possible.

Other business

- 1) Thank you notes: Jean Long, Dorothy Curry, Melissa Rock, Caroline Rock, and Jean will send a list of parents that have been delivering Sunday school bags.
- 2) Update on two parishioners discerning holy orders (Ann Rainey)
 - a) Ryan Zavecky has become a postulant and will be attending seminary in New York City.
 - b) Adam James has become a postulant and will be attending Bishop Kemper School for Ministry in Topeka, KS.

The meeting closed at 2318 with prayers at the Close of Day led by Adam James.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam A. James
Secretary