

St. Brendan the Navigator
Minutes of the Vestry/Renewal Team Meeting
February 8, 2018

Present: Lis Ingoldsby, Josephine Jacob, Richard Paget, Barbara Kourajian and Vesta Kowalski. Miriam Antich and Pete Dane called in.

Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. Pete offered an opening prayer.

Minutes

Pete Dane moved to accept the Minutes of the January 11th Vestry Meeting. Miriam seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Finance and Stewardship Ministry Reports

- End of year 2017 financial statements

Pete Dane noted that if you look at the balance sheet and compare it to last year, we are exactly where we were last year except for the fact we have taken off the mortgage on the building. Pete stated this is remarkable and positive.

We show a deficit of \$7,600. We paid three-fourths of our Diocesan assessment; we only budgeted to pay half of it. We still owe an outstanding balance of \$6,542 to the Diocese. Pete reported we had an extraordinary surge of pre-paid pledges (40% of our income.) Assuming we stay within budget, we should not have a cash flow problem.

- Stewardship campaign update

39 people have pledged \$68,850. Pete anticipates an additional \$7,000 in plate income based on his conversations with a few parishioners.

- 2018 Budget adopted on November 17th

We will look at the 2018 budget formally next month. Pete stated the Finance Committee draft budget was based on revenue of \$81,000, so we will have to make adjustments on the expense side to balance the budget. He encouraged us to look at the Finance Committee's recommendations from two months ago. In order to get a balanced budget, there are only two places we could cut: Priestly Presence and Outreach. Lis urged the Finance Committee to keep Priestly Presence a priority.

- Review/assess Diocesan assessment

We need to keep this on the radar, as we are \$6,542 in arrears. Our current assessment is \$13,000 which we pay on a monthly basis. We discussed various options for paying the outstanding balance which included paying \$550/month or borrowing the money from the Maine Community Foundation. We decided to ask the Finance Committee to entertain options for paying this debt and to give us their

recommendation at the next meeting. Lis asked Pete to relay the Vestry's thanks to the Finance Committee for all the work they do.

- Review of proposed Parochial Report

The report needs to be submitted by March 1. We are missing the financial numbers which Carolyn Mor has now provided. After we reviewed the document, Pete moved to approve the 2017 Parochial Report. Miriam seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ministry Updates

- Worship and Music: Barbara reported this Ministry is meeting monthly to plan the next liturgical season
- Outreach: Rich reported progress is being made with cooperation with other churches.
- Building and Grounds: Jo stated we have had some big rains and not much water is coming in.
- Pastoral Care: Vesta met with Diane and Carolyn. They want to strengthen the card ministry. They feel the "hospitality and welcoming new members" charge is not part of their ministry. Liz questioned whether this could be combined somehow with the building use/kitchen committee.
- Education and Spiritual Development: There will be a Lenten book discussion with as many as 13 people taking part. Vesta's session on The Book of Common Prayer has been moved to April 8th.

Discussion of Questions received from the Discernment Committee for the next Bishop

Liz thought it was important to address the survey questions from a Vestry perspective. We had a fruitful discussion. The survey questions will be presented to the congregation on Sunday for their input.

Other Business

- Ecumenical lunch: Liz reported that her lunch with five other ministers on the island was the start of a positive and open communication between the churches. Each church is dealing with the same issues – getting out into the community, getting young families to stay, etc. They agreed to stay in communication and to look for ways to collaborate. They talked about congregations advertising each other's events. Lis mentioned the Congregational Church's Second Sunday Suppers.
- Bishop's visit: we are trying to change our date in May to the end of the summer. We hope to swap dates with St. Francis in Blue Hill.
- Update on kitchen certification: Pete will get the application submitted to the Agricultural Department. We decided to get our water tested again.

- Dinner is Served/refrigerator update: Dinner is Served has voted to sell the refrigerator. Lis stated we need to keep this refrigerator plugged in since various groups use it.
- Tom van Buren's Third Thursday Music Program: begins next Thursday and will continue through April.
- Holy Week services: we decided to poll the congregation on Sunday about a Maundy Thursday service and an Easter dinner.
- Vesta suggested an idea for Pastoral Care/Welcoming for the winter months: If one Vestry member each Sunday will take the responsibility of greeting any new person and ask: "May we have your email and send you our Newsletter this week?" It was agreed the Vestry member responsible for announcements should do this.

The next Vestry/Renewal Team meeting will be Thursday, March 15th at 2 p.m.

We closed the meeting by reading the Prayer of St. Brendan together. Pete moved to adjourn the meeting and Barbara seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Barbara Kourajian
Clerk