

Minutes of the Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church Vestry
August 20, 2018

Meeting convened at 6:30 pm.

Present: Interim Rector Brent Carey, Sr. Warden Marty Pyle, Jr. Warden David Allen, Clerk Lindsay Mohn, Cecil Allen, Leslie Malle, Addrianne Conway, Dee Norris, Gordon Alloway, Dennis Kissinger, Margaret Thompson, Harriet Duff

Absent: Lisa Welker, Scott Schaefer, Dahl Metters, Lindsey Hill (resigned)
Treasurer Win Zoellner

Guest: Archdeacon Monte Giddings

Father Carey opened the meeting with a prayer. The group then shared 'Joys and Concerns'.

Ms. Duff moved to approve the minutes of the regular July meeting. Mr. Cecil Allen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Cecil Allen moved to accept the minutes of the July 30 'Special Meeting' pending two corrections. These will note that Bill Waugh was present as a representative of the Finance Committee, and that the approved salary of the future Family Minister is prior to the inclusion of benefits. Ms. Duff seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Sr. Warden Pyle asked for any updates or inclusions to the 'Ministry Liaison Reports'. Jr. Warden Allen added that he had a meeting with the Gardening Angels and felt they accomplished a lot. He has asked them to contribute information to the Operations Manual which is being compiled.

Sr. Warden Pyle noted that the Search Committee needs a Chaplain to help them with discernment. Father Carey agreed that this is typical. This person should be versed in Episcopal polity, and should come from either the Kansas or West Missouri Diocese. He asked the group for recommendations.

Sr. Warden Pyle thanked Ms. Conway for volunteering to take over leadership of the Youth Ministry until a dedicated staff member is hired. She shared that several other parents of youth had helped at their meeting last night. Youth group members have been encouraged to plan the types of activities they want to

participate in in terms of fund raising and service projects. Eleven youth attended the meeting last night. Later in the meeting, Ms. Conway elaborated on the plans the youth had made for the year ahead. They include a reworked Bake Sale, a family corn maze event and an offering of child care at a PDO prior to the year-end holidays. Youth group member Lily Turner is working on a design to put on t-shirts, which will be offered for sale to the parish at large. Ms. Conway would like to implement prayer and/or mentoring relationships between the youth and parishioners outside their own family.

Father Carey reported that 5 – 6 new or returning families have been present at worship recently, and that 5 ‘Get Me in the Loop’ cards were received yesterday. Yesterday’s Rally Day activities were a big success.

Ms. Duff thanked Mr. Cecil Allen for his work updating her on new committee members or Chair persons within his Liaison Groups, and encouraged others to do the same.

Sr. Warden Pyle turned the conversation to the results of the recent survey. The first meeting to review them was held on August 12th. Marshall Dougherty videotaped it, and will edit it down to about 80 minutes. There will be four more meetings in order to give as many parishioners as possible the chance to attend at least one. These meetings are scheduled for Wednesday August 22nd at 7:00 pm, Sunday August 26th after both of the main services, Thursday August 30th at 9:30 am, and Friday September 7th at 8:00 am. Vestry members are encouraged to attend as many of these meetings as possible, and should review the ‘Vital Signs’ portion of the survey, in particular. Members of the Search Committee have also been asked to attend these follow-up meetings. The meetings will include a short presentation of the survey results, and an open ‘Question and Answer’ session. Sr. Warden Pyle noted that these conversations are an opportunity not only to identify areas in which STMAA needs to improve, but also a chance to focus on what parishioners have identified as our unique strengths. Copies of Ministry group contacts will be available at the meetings for people who are ready to get newly engaged. Sr. Warden Pyle also intends to discuss how STMAA can enhance participation in small group ministries. Two areas in which parishioners gave STMAA high ratings were in ‘Worship’ and ‘Music’. The group noted that these areas involve many lay persons who represent groups including the Acolytes, the Choir, the Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors, the lay Readers, the Ushers, Altar Guild and several more.

There was conversation about how to conduct a successful Ministry Fair. This event is scheduled to occur on Sunday September 30th after both of the main services. Father Carey suggested an activity in which parishioners can have ‘Passports’ stamped as they visit various Ministry groups, perhaps with the potential to win a prize.

Archdeacon Giddings noted that in the future, inflatable items such as the Bounce House that was available at yesterday’s Rally Day need assigned adult supervision to avoid injuries.

Father Carey read a thank you note from STMAA Day School Administrator Charlie Andrews. They especially appreciated having a clergy member present at their Chapel services. A \$3,000 check was enclosed as their annual donation to the parish. A second check for \$1,000 was also enclosed, with particular thanks for the recent work of Jerry Kirkwood and the Carpenter Ants to improve areas of the school and playground.

Father Carey said that Father Cox and Don Compier are at work on an Adult Education program scheduled for early Fall. It will focus on ‘Discipleship Education’, and will be a good follow-up to the Bigger Bible School program. Father Carey encouraged the group to take a ‘Spiritual Gifts Inventory’ in order to help assess potential ministry abilities.

Archdeacon Giddings reported that he has been working on a plan for welcoming New Members. He will send it to the Vestry for their review.

Father Carey recently attended a one-day seminar in Dallas at the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. He shared the three principles of a successful Stewardship campaign that were discussed there:

- Discipleship,
- Giving as an essential part of life as Christian stewards, and
- Connecting generosity with the Church’s mission of ministry

It is important to communicate that even though ‘you’ may not have a stake in a particular ministry group or event, your ‘neighbor’ might, and the Church is a community. Bill O’Neill will Chair this year’s Stewardship Committee. He plans to begin the campaign six weeks prior to the Ingathering on October 21st. Emphasis on generosity will also come from the pulpit during that period.

Sr. Warden Pyle turned the conversation back to the survey. His impression is that the parish can be better than ever if we can use the results as a discernment tool. We should focus on a few key issues in the near future, then stop to reevaluate before taking on the next set of issues. He encouraged Vestry members to re-read and highlight the survey results. He will pick a few issues to discuss on at the September meeting.

Father Carey asked the group to read and be ready to discuss Chapter 6 of the Vestry Resource Guide at the next meeting, which will be held on September 17th.

Ministry Reports should go to Ms. Duff as usual, though she will not be able to attend the meeting.

Mr. Kissinger noted his concern about the demographics of the survey respondents. More than half were 65 years of age or older, and almost three quarters were 55 years of age or older. He wants to be sure the results are used as a snapshot of today rather than a ‘cookbook recipe’ to follow.

The financial report was printed and distributed but not discussed. Pledge revenue was \$54K vs. a budgeted \$65K in July. Building expenses continue to add up, including a \$2K sprinkler repair charge during the month. The Operating Fund balance was \$87K as of July month end.

The group recited The Lord’s Prayer. Then, there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Mohn
Clerk of the Vestry