



Vestry Meeting Minutes

5/10/2020

Opening

A special vestry meeting (with Bishop Jeffrey Lee's after our 10am Zoom Service for his annual visit) of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church of LaGrange was called to order at 10:55am on 5/10/2020 via Zoom (due to Coronavirus-Stay at Home orders) by Reverend David Jackson

Present

Reverend Ellen Ekevag (Co-Rector)
Reverend David Jackson (Co-Rector)
Kathleen Valenta (Senior Warden)
Marc O'Brien (Junior Warden)
Katherine Valenta (2021)
Marc Borge (2021)
Sue Jasiak (2021)
Matt Longo (2022)
Rachel Rivera-Weaver (2022)
Kathy Lampert (2023)

Drew Beyer (2022)

Dorren Gertsen-Briand (2023)

Cliff Egel (2023)

Lily Dolliff (Youth Representative)

Non-Voting

Adam Harp (Treasurer)

Andy Dolliff (Clerk)

Absent

Guests –

Bishop Jeffrey Lee

Information & Discussion with Bishop Lee

- A. Thanks to Bishop Lee for his virtual visit
- B. Opening remarks by Bishop Lee

- a. **Most Diocesan Churches are using Zoom-type technology in the dioceses successfully**

- C. Pastoral Challenges during the Pandemic – hospitals and nursing homes. Need to focus on phone calls and virtual. Use the resources available.**

- D. When will churches open for service within the Sanctuary?**
 - a. **Dioceses will follow the authority of the Municipal governments.**
 - b. **Virtual service from sanctuary is being discussed. Fluid Process.**
 - **June 1 may allow some access with small group of people into sanctuary**
 - c. **Further steps to follow Issues –**
 - i. **Disinfecting the Space – need to determine how**

- E. How to involve the Youth during the pandemic.**
 - a. **Confirmation – Mentors need to be more involved.**
 - b. **Connect with Youth in general with the technology available**

- F. What Changes to the Episcopal Church does the Bishop see due to the pandemic?**
 - a. **The pandemic will accelerate trends already in process.**
 - i. **Pandemic Will act as an accelerator**
 - b. **We are in a period of institutional decline.**
 - i. **Relatively no control – nor our fault**
 - ii. **Institutional decline will accelerate**

- G. Succession of Leadership at Emmanuel & the Diocese**
 - a. **Ellen's leaving**
 - i. **Emmanuel Have a team approach**
 - ii. **Which is a blessing at this time – Search processes are under a pause status**
 - iii. **Ministry goes on.**
 - iv. **Can discuss more when we recover from the pandemic,**

 - b. **Bishop Lee**
 - i. **Still intends to retire/resign but has delayed the process due to the pandemic.**
 - ii. **Search committee still in place**
 - iii. **Regular convention will probably be electing convention**
 - 1. **Convention may be electronic/virtual**

- H. Check-ins with Vestry**
 - a. **Really tough with graduating youth.**

- i. High School
- ii. College

- I. Finances
 - a. How to proceed with Pipe Organ Program?
 - b. All dependent on Post-Covid-19

- J. Emmanuel, vestry and leadership Need to promote Hope
 - a. Not the same thing as optimism
 - b. Hope needs to be a practice

- K. Open discussion with regional episcopal churches
 - a. Hinsdale, Burr Ridge, All Saints.
 - b. Churches would rather go under than to work together.
 - c. Common Ministries is a possibility
 - d. Town rivalries can be an issue (sports)

Thanks to Bishop Lee for his Visit!

Minutes submitted by: Andrew Dolliff, Clerk