



VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 19th, 2018

Attendees: Rev. Ellen Ekevag, Rev. David Jackson, Suzanne Jasiak, Andy Dolliff, Marc Borge, Kathy Lampert, Marc O'Brien, Vicki Roe, (Larry Brongel - Treasurer) Jenn Vince, Judy Staiano (clerk),

Absent: Hendrik Noth, Mike Bolton, Dorren Gertsen-Briand, Kathleen Valenta, Meredith Gebhart

Secretary: Judy Staiano Call to order 7.05pm

Agenda

1. Formation

Opening Prayer by Rev. Jackson (substituted for Kathleen)
Spiritual autobiography discussion; sometimes the experience of the presence of God is retrospective, with some form of divine intervention. Commonality; deceased parents

II. Information

A. May minutes - **after a minor change the motion to pass the minutes were approved by 1st Sue Jasiak and seconded by Marc O'Brien. All in favor.**

And special Organ Vestry minutes - **the motion to pass the minutes were approved by 1st Marc O'Brien seconded by Vicki Roe. All in favor.**

B. Buildings and Grounds report – Marc O'Brien suggested that the Memorial Fund would pay for the additional plants and Mulch requested by Kim Gebhart for the gardens on Catherine Avenue outside the Memorial Hall, where old shrubs were removed last year. Totaling approximately \$500.

C. Rector's report – reports all quiet for the summer, but responded to a comment that a young family had left the church, perhaps due to a lack of programming for young children. Discussed the Vestry Retreat for this year, to be held in Sept 14th-16th at the Sienna Retreat in Racine, Wisconsin. Reported that the recent College of Congregational Development course was intense with 70 hours of class within the week! Rev. Dave agreed and said that there was a healthy mix of clergy and non-clergy attendees. They looked at conflict resolution and had projects to prepare before the next session in September. Rev. Ellen was reportedly outstanding as one of the trainers.

III. Discussion

A. Larry B's treasurer's report - May giving was a disaster, with only \$16,000. For operating cash. Giving has been down consistently for the last few months, even before the summer slump. It is possible we will be in the negative by around \$28,000. By the end of the year. We need to try to generate more cash, and look to cut or control some expenditure; i.e. the diocesan pledge, not have an organist when George is on vacation (2 dates in July coming up), and allow only necessary expenses. We had 2 large expense bills in May, the emergency pump repair for \$2,200. And a casualty insurance payment of \$5,000. It seems that we are approx. \$30,000 down on the pledge giving income to date. We are typically 10% short annually on promised pledge income. We should be cautious and reflect a more accurate pledge income on future budget preparation. Sue J reports a rough estimate of the income from this years Kensington Market of around \$5,000. Will

confirm as soon as all expenses paid. Discussed open offering and pledge giving recording on the Counters sheets. True open offering is simply undeclared cash (no family connection) cash, however, if a family doesn't give a pledge card, then their giving (even if regular) is considered and recorded as open offering (not pledge giving). Perhaps we should stress to the parish to be more intentional with any giving, in terms of their intended project/event when putting envelopes/checks in the collection plate. Not always obvious which or where the donation is to go. When the Bishop was here – not always clearly marked, and so we may have inadvertently given the Bishop checks intended for us (or vice versa). Nevertheless we had a thank you letter from the Bishop for the \$595 collected. Looked at several items in the Church Windows report, but that sometimes skews figures simply because of the way the program records and reports on things. Larry's excel spreadsheets, always present in the reports, are often more accurate for this reason.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Marc Borge and seconded by Kathy L. All in favor.

B. The budget review and revision – many topics discussed during treasurer's report. Some families do not pledge during the Stewardship campaign but still give regularly. Some regularly pledge families did not pledge last year. Why? How should we approach these families? Some families pledge and do not pay the full amount promised, which makes budgeting difficult and inaccurate. We need more data about our pledging families, whether they give/pledge or not, so that we can act accordingly in a more timely manner and hopefully avoid these slumps or shortfalls. It is decided that we should include on the February Vestry Agenda the status of the stewardship campaign, for a more accurate status of pledging. Stewardship should be perhaps a 12 month campaign not just 2 months?

C. POP update – we do not have an answer to the question of the Casavant contract extension yet. The pledge campaign has been promising so far, with 20 pledge cards turned in totaling \$83,700. It is a good start but we need more and need to keep up the momentum. How do we move forward with the concerts for the Organ? George T concerned about lack of parish attendance/interest on some of the benefit concerts. Some groups have approached us to hold a concert but to split an open donation collection with the Organ Fund rather than pay a set fee for the use of the church (which goes to the general operating fund). This is not really fair for those groups who pay the designated fee and hold a collection I.e. LT, or the Hinsdale Chorale etc. How do we make sure that a group has their own following/audience/marketing/promotion? We do not have the manpower to pursue this for them? Should we have a concert committee? Should we increase the price to all groups to \$500 from the current \$250? Often difficult to justify even that fee. What do other churches charge? Can we ask our regular groups if this would cause a problem? We want concerts here, and we do not want to lose them. But is our spectacular acoustic space worth more money/recognition? Is there an acoustic rating?

Decision

- Kathy L has switched counting team with Jenn Vince from team 1 to 4.
- In order to move to the cloud, we need faster internet. Suggest that we move to Comcast which would be \$115 per month after an initial \$200 connectivity/set up fee. 36 month contract. We currently pay AT&T \$150 per month, would save money in the long term. Agreed to pursue this avenue.
- Still waiting for new Dean at Seabury? Rev. Jackson reports there has been a new Dean installed – Mica Jackson (check spelling!). Will work to finalize Swetnam.

Ending Prayer at 9.21pm

Next Meeting: Vestry Meeting	August 21 st
All Committee Night	August 30 th
Vestry retreat	Sept 14 th -16 th