

St. Brendan the Navigator
A Summary of our Special Parish Meeting
Sunday, September 10, 2017

Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby called the meeting to order at 11:23 a.m. A quorum was present with 18 members in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the adoption of a Mission Statement and a Values Statement to accompany the Parish Renewal Plan. The Parish Renewal Plan was adopted on August 13, 2017, completing Goal #1 of the Plan. Fr. Dufresne stated that adopting a Mission Statement and Values Statement will complete Goal #3 of the Plan. The Mission Statement defines what we are about and why; our Values Statement defines how we'll do the work.

Fr. Dufresne explained we would be using a consensual process, a "sense of the meeting," to decide on our Mission Statement and Values Statement. The process involved Fr. Dufresne asking us questions to continually sense areas of agreement. It was explained that once we came to agreement on these statements, a vote would be taken for their adoption. He thanked the Vestry/Renewal Team for their preparatory work done on these statements.

We first considered the mission statement. Fr. Dufresne read the norms/criteria suggested by the Vestry/Renewal Team to be used in our deliberations:

The parish mission statement should be:

1. **Memorable** and
2. **Memorable**: people need to be able to recall from memory at least the important features of the statement;
3. **Succinct** enough to be useful in all our publications and publicity;
4. **Definitive**: the statement should define who we are at St. Brendan's and where we should be headed as God's people;
5. **Distinctive**, recalling what makes us unique as a parish;
6. **Comprehensive**: it speaks in relevant ways to all we try to do and be, especially in this time of transition and renewal;
7. **Comprehensible**, easily understood by all.

There were no objections to the norms. We then considered the two proposed mission statements. Through the consensual process, we agreed on the following:

The Mission of St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church is to **love, praise, welcome, and serve**:

- to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
- to **praise** God in all things,
- to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
- to **serve** the needs of one another and of those on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

We then considered the Values Statement. Fr. Dufresne mentioned an addition the Vestry/Renewal Team suggested at their last meeting:

Engage as many of our parishioners as possible, year-round, in our common life and ministries.

The Values Statement now reads:

These are our **values** at St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church. We will:

- **Welcome** others with **respect** and **compassion**;
- **Listen** to others with **trust** and **appreciation**;
- **Seek God's goodness** in each person;
- Strive for **consensus** and **work collaboratively**;
- Join in acts of **loving kindness**;
- **Share our faith** joyfully across the generations;
- **Engage** as many of our **parishioners** as possible, **year-round**, in our common life and ministries;
- **Learn from our past** and look to the future with **hope**.

There was unanimous agreement on the Values Statement.

Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby then asked for a motion to both accept the Mission Statement for the next twelve months and the Values Statement. Skip Greenlaw so moved. Lynn Verhey seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Fr. Dufresne closed the meeting with a reading from Paul to the Romans. The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Barbara Kourajian
Clerk