

St. Brendan the Navigator
Minutes of the Vestry/Renewal Team Meeting
November 30, 2017

Present: Lis Ingoldsby, Josephine Jacob, Pete Dane, Richard Paget, and Barbara Kourajian. Miriam Antich and Peter Tarlton called in. Ruth Robinson was also present.

Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Barbara offered an opening prayer. In the future, responsibility for the opening prayer will rotate among Vestry members.

Minutes

Pete Dane moved to accept the Minutes of the November 16th Vestry Meeting as presented. Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Discussion of Parish Input on the Proposed Budget

We debriefed the Parish meeting held on November 19th and acknowledged some hard decisions on priorities will have to be made. Parishioners questioned the reduction of funds allotted to Outreach. It was voiced this reduction was a breach of St. Brendan's historical commitment of tithing 10% to Outreach. The Vestry felt we have the input we need and that we should move ahead with what we have.

Discussion of the 2018 Budget

We spent considerable time reviewing the latest revision of the budget. The Finance and Stewardship Ministry (FSM) was charged to come up with a zero-based budget, which the current budget reflects. The budget presented has us paying the 2018 Diocesan Assessment in full, while significantly cutting back on funds for Outreach, and hours Vesta Kowalski would spend working with the Ministries, Vestry, and Senior Warden.

After a lengthy discussion, we decided to ask the FSM to raise the amount we hope to receive in pledges – tag it to last year's budget of \$82,850 to reflect a more optimistic outlook for pledge income. In so doing, this would meet our needs in Outreach and Priestly Augmentation, while still paying the Diocesan Assessment.

Peter Tarlton moved to adopt the budget with these changes: a revenue line of \$82,850, \$4800 for Vesta Kowalski Augmentation, \$500 for the Educational and Spiritual Development Ministry, \$175 for the music license fee, and \$7457 to Outreach (a 9% tithe). Jo seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Pete Dane voted not to approve this budget. This approved budget leaves us with a \$44 deficit.

This budget and a narrative will appear in next week's eNewsletter. The narrative will highlight how this budget ties in with our aspirational Renewal Plan for strong

Ministries and clergy support for these Ministries. It also responds to the input we received on increased support for Outreach.

Ruth and Rich spoke to the idea of borrowing money from the Maine Community Foundation at 2% interest to pay our past Diocesan Assessment. This would require a proposal to the Diocese for an amortization plan. We decided to revisit this idea after the first quarter of 2018.

Liz reported she told Dick Rozene (Treasurer of the Diocese) that any surplus we have from 2017 will be used to pay down our outstanding Diocesan Assessment.

Review of Ministry Descriptions

The Outreach Ministry is still working on their description. Pete Dane moved to accept all the Ministry Descriptions except Outreach and that the Clerk appropriately number them as Continuing Resolutions as the Clerk sees fit. Miriam seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Worship and Music will be Continuing Resolution #1, Education and Spiritual Development #2, Finance and Stewardship #3, and Pastoral Care #4.

Other Business

- We discussed getting more information from Liz Alley on inquiries she receives and also getting a sense of her activity in the office. We welcome her ideas and input since she is on the front line. Lis, as a member of the Personnel Committee, will speak with her.
- Letters need to go out to the various organizations using our building thanking them for using our facility and reaffirming the rates for the coming year. The Building Use Committee will handle this.
- Lis mentioned she has been appointed to the Diocesan Transition Committee, one of two committees working to select the Tenth Bishop of Maine.
- We were made aware we need a new computer for the office.

The next Vestry/Renewal Team meeting will be Thursday, December 14th at 11:15 a.m.

We closed the meeting by reading the Prayer of St. Brendan together. The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Barbara Kourajian
Clerk