St. Brendan the Navigator
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
January 28, 2020

Present: Lis Ingoldsby, Josephine Jacob, Barbara Kourajian, Tom van Buren, Fr. Edward Dufresne, Pastor Elaine Hewes
Present by video conferencing: Miriam Antich, Meg Graham, and Bill Scaife

Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. Fr. Dufresne offered an opening prayer.

The purpose of this meeting was to start a conversation on developing a church policy that would help us respond to persons who might exhibit behavioral, emotional, and social challenges at parish functions. While we hope always to be welcoming of all, we also need to be concerned that all members feel safe and secure at St. Brendan's during worship and congregational events.

As a starting place for our conversation, Pastor Elaine walked us through a document that included best practices when someone has exhibited behaviors that others may find abusive, unpredictable, or frightening. This included drawing up a covenant with that person that defines the "terms" of presence for them when they are in the community setting. A key component is having a support team for this person whose members are committed to accompanying the person whenever he/she attends congregational events.

There was consensus we need something like this policy in place now so we are prepared to respond when a person is acting in ways that could disrupt parish community life. We also agreed to pursue programs that will educate our parishioners around mental health issues.

Further work on devising and implementing this policy is ongoing and the *ad hoc* committee coordinated by Pastor Elaine and Vestry member Josephine Jacob will report to the Vestry on progress made at subsequent Vestry meetings.

Fr. Dufresne offered a closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Barbara Kourajian,
Clerk