Vestry Minutes October 21, 2020
St Brendan-the-Navigator Episcopal Church

Present via Zoom were Pastor Elaine Hewes, Pete Dane, George Pazuniak, Jane LeChance, Meg Graham, Tom van Buren, Bill Scaife and Curtis Flowers. Elaine opened the meeting with a prayer. The September minutes, having previously been circulated and corrected electronically, were formally approved.

Elaine read her written proposal for the church to host the Opiate-Free Island needle exchange program, as follows:

To allow Opiate Free Island to use St. Brendan's parish hall one afternoon/evening a week for about two hours for a needle exchange program. Permission granted with the following understanding:

1) There will be nothing related to the program stored at St. Brendan at this time.

2) There will be regularly scheduled check-ins between designated St. Brendan members and Opiate Free Island folks to ensure the program is running well and safely.

3) There will be one St. Brendan member at the church during the time hours of the needle exchange to answer any questions about the building and to offer support if requested.

Pete moved the proposal be accepted; Curtis seconded; approval was unanimous.

Elaine will draft an overview of the project for the *Navigator*, circulating it to the vestry ahead of publication.

Meg suggested it could be helpful for the whole parish to have a chance to hear Charlie Osborn and Ashley Pesak explain the exchange program and the local problem it addresses before the program gets underway maybe about the first of the year. This could take the form of a parish wide zoom meeting. George further suggested that we might wish to invite some community people beyond our parish to the meeting as well. Or perhaps we should have Charlie and Ashley for two separate meetings, one parish-only meeting before the program begins, then after we have seen the program underway for a time a second that could include key people beyond the parish. Elaine will talk to Charlie and seek his input on these possibilities.

Elaine shared that with proper safeguards in place St Brendan's will cautiously open our kitchen again to outside groups beginning with the Thanksgiving food assembly group. Both Outreach and COVID task force agree on this. Consideration of other groups could follow.

A request came from Miriam Antich and Barbara Kourajian that the vestry consider best distribution practice for the new parish directory. After discussion, the vestry decided the directory would be made available to all parishioners in hard copy form. If a specific request is made by a parishioner for a digital copy it will be sent only as a protected PDF file and as an

email attachment to the requesting parishioner. Anyone objecting to his/her information being sent in this form may opt out of the electronic file.

Stewardship reports pledges proceeding much as hoped. It is expected the target of $100,000 will be reached.

Finance. Bill reported that September numbers look good though pledge payments were down somewhat.
The audit sub-committee met with auditor Terry Reimer who expressed approval of how new four-times-a-year audit system is working.
The budget process has begun; Finance expects to present budget to vestry in November.
The parish is applying to participate in the $2000 tech grant program that the diocese is offering its churches to assist in technology upgrades needed during the COVID 19 pandemic. Bill reported on the diocese's also offering to parishes a Donation Button that enables online giving to individual churches. The button can appear on our website and in the *Navigator*. Vestry members expressed their approval.

Worship and Music. Pete reported that in-house Eucharist was beginning this Sunday with instructions and explanations to appear in this Friday's Navigator. Zoom will continue for those who choose. Hospitality will have two members checking temperatures of those arriving for church and seeing that all participants are safely settled with proper spacing. Pastoral Care will be bringing Communion to local members who are not physically present in the parish hall but who wish to receive.

Outreach. Tom reported Outreach continues its full program agenda as well as working on how best they might set up system of responsible apportionment and prioritizing of resources. Elaine will consult on this. The Magnum Iona painting purchase has now been fully subscribed; all proceeds will go to Outreach projects.

Hospitality. The upcoming *Navigator* will have an article on the Kindness Rock Garden.

Education programs are on-going.

Pastoral Care. Added to their ongoing ministry of sending cards and checking on members, the Pastoral Care group will begin bringing communion from our in-house Eucharist to our island and peninsula members who wish it.

Next month Elaine will host a zoom meeting with ministry chairs and minutes-takers to discuss good communication among the ministries and the vestry so all may be better informed of what each is doing and when appropriate might engender inter-ministry collaboration on some endeavors.

Long range thoughts from Elaine:

In our time of COVID we see old forms crumbling and new possibilities appear.

Our zoom meetings have given new worship space and inclusion to those who are away, possibility of any of us sharing in worship with distant and different groups.
Island partnerships are growing.
Walls are coming down.
The question arises: For what reason does the Church exist?
Suggestion we might find our answers less in terms of Restoration and more in terms of Transformation.
Suggestion we look back for examples to diocesan service report on *Seeds of Hope*.
Would like to see us form a Dream Team to bring collective thought to new possibilities.

The slightly earlier meeting time was well received so that our zoom vestry meetings for now will retain it. The next vestry meeting will be at 8:30 AM, Wednesday, November 19, 2020. At 8:00 AM, for those who wish, Elaine will offer preparation and exchange time.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis Flowers, Clerk