

St. Brendan the Navigator
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
August 24, 2017

Present: Lis Ingoldsby, Josephine Jacob, Miriam Antich, Peter Tarlton, Barbara Kourajian, and Father Edward Dufresne. Pete Dane called in.

Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Fr. Dufresne offered an opening prayer.

Mission Statement

Fr. Dufresne reviewed the five criteria for deciding on a mission statement. The 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) **Succint** 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) **Comprehensive**: it speaks in relevant ways to all we try to do and be, especially in this time of transition and renewal.

Fr. Dufresne asked if we had any additions. Two were suggested. The Mission Statement should:

- 1) speak to what makes us distinct and unique;
- 2) be understandable to people on the outside.

Fr. Dufresne stated that based on best practices, a mission statement should not be imposed; go through a process, so there is buy-in. He also said it should be what we can see ahead. A mission statement is always open to be reviewed, renewed, and revised as circumstances change for the organization. It is a healthy thing for the parish to revisit a mission statement every 2, 3, or perhaps 5 years.

We read and voted on the twelve extant or proposed mission statements. We decided to bring forth two for the Parish's consideration on September 10th:

- 1) The Mission of St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church is to **love, serve** and **praise**:
 - to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
 - to **serve** the needs of others,
 - to **praise** God in all things.
- 2) The Mission of St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church is to love one another as Christ loves us, to support one another on our journey in faith through life, and to minister to the needs of others on the island and beyond.

Vision Statement and Values Statement

We discussed the value of having a Mission Statement, a Vision Statement, and a Values Statement. The Vision Statement should be aspirational and we decided to use our Parish Renewal Plan as the Vision Statement.

We discussed several values we deemed important in our life together:

- honor our differences
- value of sharing influence
- engage in active listening
- an openness to be influenced
- a willingness to collaborate and a commitment to acts of loving kindness
- a willingness to learn from the past
- institutional memory – important to remember the good things
- sharing our faith across generations
- using key words such as hearts, stretching arms, learning, understanding

Fr. Dufresne, Lis, Peter Tarlton, and Barbara Kourajian will work on crafting the Values Statement. We hope to include this draft and our two proposals for the mission statement in next week's newsletter. These could be discussed during the 'check-in' meeting with Michael Ambler on September 3rd.

Moving Forward

Fr. Dufresne outlined his vision of what he hopes we can accomplish by the end of September: meeting again to discuss personnel for our five ministries, writing model ministry descriptions for all the groups, adoption of our Mission and Values Statement by the congregation, Educational and Spiritual Development Committee starting to implement the Mission and Values Statements, a session with Michael Ambler to discuss possible models for a priest-in-charge and the financial implications thereof, starting to develop a clear budget to present to the Parish in combination with the Stewardship campaign.

There was discussion on when the Stewardship campaign should begin. We decided the campaign will likely be in two parts -- the first to sustain us financially as we are operating now and later, and another phase, perhaps in the Spring, focused on the financial implications of calling a priest-in-charge.

The next Renewal team meeting will be Thursday, August 31st at 10:30 a.m.

We closed the meeting by reading the Prayer of St. Brendan. The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Barbara Kourajian
Clerk