

**St. Brendan the Navigator
Minutes of the Vestry/Renewal Team Meeting
May 16, 2018**

Present: Lis Ingoldsby, Josephine Jacob, Pete Dane, Rich Paget, Peter Tarlton, Miriam Antich, and Barbara Kourajian.

Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. She extended a hearty “welcome back” to Peter and Miriam. Barbara offered an opening prayer.

Review and acceptance of the April 19th Meeting Minutes

There was a question if the Minutes correctly stated the policy concerning the handling of the Sunday offering. After some discussion, it was agreed that the policy as stated was fine. Pete moved to accept the Minutes of the April meeting. Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Financial Report

Pete stated the April financial report was unremarkable. He noted we are basically on budget and said the risks he took on projections for the plate are completely satisfied.

Rich asked about the Capital Account since it has been drained. We need to get a report from Buildings and Grounds before we can discuss what is needed. We should be putting \$15-\$20K a year into the Capital Account.

Pete presented this resolution: to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Finance Committee, to invest such portions of the Operating Fund in certificates of deposit or similar instruments as they, from time to time, deem prudent. The Vestry agreed by unanimous consent.

Review of finalized plans for the Bishop’s visit on May 20th

All is in place. A welcome dinner for the Bishop with the Vestry and Ministry Chairs will be held on Saturday, May 19th, 5:30 p.m. at Miriam’s house. This will be a time for the Bishop to hear about our Renewal Plan and the work of our Ministries. Peter Tarlton raised a question for the Bishop: has the Diocese come up with a long-term strategy for parishes like ours who cannot handle a full-time priest?

Sunday’s Pentecost service will be followed by a special coffee hour and parish conversation. An offering for the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund will be taken that day.

Update on June 24th Parish Forum to address Renewal Plan Goal #5

Lis reported on her conversation with Edward Dufresne which occurred during a recent visit she and Judy Miller had with him. Edward gave them some ideas on how to address and best approach the priestly presence issue. He outlined a plan for us which

proposes various scenarios for a stewardship campaign. This would require one-on-one meetings and could take as long as a year to implement.

We realized we are not alone in solving the problem of increasing our priestly presence. The idea was raised of meeting with other churches to leverage a combination that might work for everyone.

Peter Tarlton suggested we take a serious look at bequests as a way of funding a larger capital pool to sustain us. Pete Dane mentioned this has been on the agenda of the Finance Committee and it may be time to revisit this.

Peter asked: "What is the question? Can we make St. Brendan's sustainable?" We agreed we need an approach that will get us to the next 5-10 years. The "St. Brendan's Sustainability Fund" could have a variety of purposes which we can specify; it could include funds for our Capital Account in addition to funding sustainable priestly leadership. A recurring theme in our discussion: we need to take the long-term view.

The strategy committee for the June 24th meeting will be Peter Tarlton (chair), Pete Dane and Jo. The committee will consider Edward's plan and make the case for a 1/3 priest position. This was deemed necessary in light of the fact of reduced supply coverage and the increased burden on our Senior Warden to handle administrative duties.

We are asking Lis to make a list of her responsibilities, so we can consider how we can help.

Other Business

- Lis stated we are getting more inquiries on rentals. The State has officially certified our kitchen as a commercial kitchen. Now it is possible for caterers to use our facility. We've had three inquiries. Lis asked if we needed a separate contract for caterers. Pete has this on his list.
- Lis had a request to rent our space for a larger music event from Sept. 20-24th. We agreed we are not set-up to handle a multi-day, multi-hour event.
- The Bridge Club will not be renting from us in the future.
- The Priest's Discretionary Fund: Lis lamented the tough situation she is in when disbursing the monies in this fund. Her budget is limited and she has received requests from the same people several times. Vesta Kowalski recommended a policy of giving once to each person (this is the policy rectors usually follow). Lis wishes she had a larger budget because we have people clearly in need. The 2018 budget anticipates paying \$500.00 into the Fund this year, but no funding has yet occurred.
- Barbara mentioned she was contacted by Heidi Kaufmann who has a friend in Ireland (Mick Delap) who has written poetry about St. Brendan's adventures. Heidi inquired if St. Brendan's would be interested in hosting a poetry reading

next summer. The Vestry thought this was a great idea and wants to encourage them to make this happen.

- We revisited the make-up of the Nominating Committee and felt it should include more non-Vestry members. Barbara moved the nominating committee be comprised of four members, including two continuing or outgoing Vestry members and two members of the congregation not on the Vestry. Pete seconded the motion. The motion passed. Rich and Barbara will represent the Vestry and will recruit two members-at-large to comprise the committee.
- WindowDressers: Jo reported that coordinators for the various aspects of the Deer Isle build are in place. The build will be either the third or fourth week of August. The storage request has been tabled at this time.

The next Vestry/Renewal Team meeting will be June 6th at 1:30 p.m. We will meet again on June 21st at 1:30 p.m.

We closed the meeting with a poem by Peter Tarlton called "Placid Waters." The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Barbara Kourajian,
Clerk