

St. Brendan the Navigator
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
August 7, 2017

Present: Lis Ingoldsby, Jo Jacob, Richard Paget, Peter Tarlton, Miriam Antich, Barbara Kourajian, Woody Osborne, Skip Greenlaw, and Father Edward Dufresne

Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. Fr. Dufresne offered an opening prayer.

Consideration of the Report on Findings and Parish Renewal Goals to be presented on August 13:

Fr. Dufresne said he was touched and pleased how the July 30th parish and Annual Meeting went. He witnessed the “people of God sincerely seeking what they are called to do.” Lis felt that people were comfortable expressing their thoughts and that Fr. Dufresne helped set the tone for this.

Report on Findings – After receiving input from the parish, Fr. Dufresne made a lot of additions to Parish Strengths, very few additions to Parish Needs and almost no additions to the Parish Renewal Goals we established. He reviewed the document with us drawing attention to the changes he made.

There was quite a bit of discussion on Point 3 of the Renewal Plan (Mission Statement). Woody asked if we should acknowledge that we have a mission statement and have it included in the text of Point 3. We realized we have several mission statements and it was suggested we add the one printed in our service bulletin into the text of Point 3. Fr. Dufresne commented that if you have a stated mission statement, we need to consider it and honor it in this process. Since we have as many as five statements floating out there, we decided to consider all of these at the next Vestry meeting and come up with two statements we can put forth at the parish meeting on September 10.

Fr. Dufresne decided not to float a Goal #12 which would have considered some response to the subcontractors who did not receive full compensation for the construction project. He gave his reasons for not including it and after some discussion the Vestry agreed this should not be part of the Parish Renewal Plan.

Two documents will be presented to the congregation at the August 13th meeting. The first document will be the Report on Findings (Parish Strengths and Needs); the second will be the Proposed Parish Renewal Plan. Fr. Dufresne will go through the Parish Renewal Plan step-by-step. This plan, if approved, will need to be published as widely as possible and will become our marching orders. We agreed to publish the Report on Findings in the eNewsletter before the meeting so the congregation has time to absorb this information before they receive the Proposed Renewal Plan. It will be mentioned they can expect the Proposed Renewal Plan to speak directly to the Needs section of the Report on Findings.

Organizing for Goals (if adopted):

Goal #1 – Commitment to Parish Renewal

Fr. Dufresne stated the Parish Renewal Team is the sparkplug to the whole effort. He will be working with this 3-person team, taking the Renewal Plan apart goal by goal. This team will strategize and make the Plan happen. Fr. Dufresne said the Team will be comprised of a former member of Vestry, a present member of Vestry, and a member of the congregation.

Goal #3 – Mission Statement

The next Vestry meeting on August 24th will be devoted to drafting a mission statement. Please give Lis any mission statements floating around.

Goal #10 – Leadership for Ministry

The objectives and goals for the various committees will be looked at and examined. We will want to consolidate our current committees under the five ministry groups mentioned in the Plan. For each ministry, Fr. Dufresne will present a model based on the mission statement and incorporate as much of it to what is currently in place for this ministry group. The goal is to standardize so all ministries/committees will be running the same way.

Fr. Dufresne stated that members of the Vestry will have two roles: 1) be responsible for the general governance of the entire parish, and 2) be responsible for the well-being of a particular ministry. Lis suggested the following assignments:

Worship and Music – Barbara Kourajian

Education and Spiritual Development – Peter Tarlton

Outreach and Evangelism – Rich Paget

Stewardship and Finance -- Pete Dane

Pastoral Care – Miriam Antich

Members of the Vestry will not have to chair the committee or run the ministry; rather they will report at the Vestry meeting how the committee is functioning and what their needs are. In addition to the above ministries, the Senior Warden is responsible for all communications and the Junior Warden is responsible for building and grounds and the kitchen.

Peter Tarlton suggested reducing the number of existing committees by putting them under the five parish Ministries presented in the Renewal Plan. Lis will send out a list on how our current committees could be grouped under the five Ministries.

Review of Revised Letter of Understanding for Fr. Dufresne's services (based on expanded scope of deliverables and associated hours):

Fr. Dufresne stated that his mission has changed: in addition to helping the Vestry, he is now helping the congregation accomplish the Renewal Plan. Under the Revised Plan, he will perform duties on an average basis of up to 40 hours per

month for 4 months (August-November) at the rate of \$40 per hour, plus travel expenses. His work will include:

- Providing advice and guidance to the Vestry and to the Senior Warden as needed;
- Working closely with and providing the Parish Renewal Team support and guidance for their work;
- Providing support and guidance for parish ministry groups implementing Renewal Plan goals;
- Providing leadership at congregation meetings where Renewal Plan matters are addressed.

He mentioned the importance of having supply priests Vesta Kowalski and Stephen Hayward tied into this and kept up-to-date, so in his absence they could possibly help us carry the plan through. We will have to assess their availability to do this.

The Vestry discussed the proposal. Various points were made, including how important it will be to take the time to reflect thoughtfully on each step. We are not in a task driven race to meet some schedule. Peter Tarlton commented that in addition to providing helpful structure as we move forward, it would seem that a renewal plan is about patiently discerning how we experience and sustainably share the Holy Spirit within both our immediate community and its ripples. The Vestry also recognized the value of having an experienced professional guiding us through this process. The Vestry approved Fr. Dufresne's Revised Proposal.

Other business and upcoming meetings:

Lis reported that Vesta has offered to conduct a training session for participants in the Sunday service. She will follow up and work with the Worship Committee on this. The Vestry concurred this would be helpful and supported this idea.

The next Vestry meeting will be Thursday, August 24th at 10 a.m. The next Parish Meeting will be September 10th after the morning service.

Lis closed the meeting with the Prayer of St. Brendan. She would like to encourage committees to either open or close their meetings with this prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Barbara Kourajian
Clerk