The Vestry of St. Brendan's met via Zoom at 8:30, A.M on St. Patrick's Day, March 16, 2021. Present were Pastor Elaine Hewes, wardens Pete Dane and George Pazuniak, as well as Meg Graham, Jane LaChance, Bill Scaife, Tom Van Buren and Curtis Flowers. Elaine called the vestry to order and called on Jane who opened the meeting with an Irish prayer and blessing. The February minutes, having previously been circulated and amended electronically, were approved.

Ministry Reports

Music and Worship had submitted an electronic report. Pete added only that their planning was complete through Easter, after which the next several weeks would be planned. Elaine called attention to the community Easter Service at sunrise.

Building and Grounds are in good order, as reported by George. Meg expressed her hope that there might soon be a ministry meeting when suggestions for grounds planning and volunteer opportunity could be offered. Jo Jacob is chair and is in charge of meetings.

Outreach meetings, Tom reported, are going well with a rotating chair. The immediate highlight for Outreach is Carolyn Mor's attendance at the meeting to share her own work with Restorative Justice and consider how there might be broader parish work in this area.

Education & Spiritual Formation had no new report, according to Jane who added, however, that dates for planned activities are now being firmed.

Pastoral Care: Elaine commended their excellent work making calls, sending cards and keeping the prayer list current.

Hospitality, Jane reported, has a storytelling event set up but will meet again after Easter to make new plans.

Finance, Bill related, had no new report for the present.

In ongoing business, Pete reported on his overtures to the Diocesan Trustees regarding investments and ESG standards. Meg offered to help with an approach.

George reported that while the needle exchange program thus far has had zero attendance the contact and time spent with Ashley Pesek is building a strong connection. This, in itself, is well worthwhile. Ashley will make an initial presentation to the parish this Sunday at Coffee Hour to describe the program and answer questions. Later she will meet with the vestry for more in depth discussion and consider adjustments we might consider after the program has been up and running a bit longer. One thing to be considered then is Meg's question regarding whether the sandwich board actually offers the sort of privacy needed by clients. Another is how this program might help the parish make good connection with the justice system in the area.

Elaine addressed the concerns about best practices and churches' use of social media that she has learned in conversation with the diocese. This is an on-going conversation. For now we will maintain our practice of George having sole control of Facebook and Barbara Kourajian and Miriam Antich control of publications.

Elaine reported that the personnel committee is addressing how the administrative assistant position is to be advertised. General discussion on best and fairest approach followed. The St. Brendan's

administrative team, now dubbed Two Wardens and a Priest, has been meeting to deal with the vacancy. June 1 is the target date for having the position filled.

The process of how and when we may begin gathering back together as a parish will be addressed at an April 12 meeting. We expect to be able to do Eucharist and to begin in the garden. Zoom will remain a permanent feature.

Elaine quoted Bishop Brown's report of his recent mulling over parish qualities that could make for growth of the spirit. He has four:

1. Offering opportunities to get individual people moving on spiritual growth, and asking, what are we as a parish offering?

2. Imbed the Bible in everything – every meeting, every activity should begin with a lesson.

3. Create in whole congregation a sense of ownership of the church – the community, not the building – ownership not by priest or vestry but by all.

4. Pastoring the larger community.

Additionally, the qualities of leaders who can aid this growth:

1. Hearts warm and embracing, not removed.

2. Devotion to the Eucharist, in broad sense, the liturgical whole, being the body and blood of Christ and sharing in death and resurrection.

Discussion of whether and how we might best incorporate these into practice at St. Brendan's is on-going.

Regarding Elaine's continued thinking about the Church of Reformation, she suggested we begin to consider what St. Brendan's might look like ten years from now. What would St. Brendan's look like if we continued our present course? What changes would we need to make to be vibrant on the island in ten years?

Tom offered that there are things we already know some other parishes are doing that we might also wish to try. Further, Tom offered that the lectionary is something we might wish to reconsider. Elaine added, "The Bible is the field guide, not the field."

The Vestry will meet again April 21. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis Flowers, clerk