

## St. David's Episcopal Church

June 16, 2025

Vestry Meeting

The June Vestry meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM and was presided over by Jr. Warden Cathy Schwichtenberg. In attendance were Rev. Katherine Lewis, Sr. Warden David Niles, Ann Robinson, Bonnie Boyd, Andy Harvala, Mike Sandsmark, Julia Handley, Treasurer Stephen Ferro and Clerk Rita Hayek.

Absent: Nan Drake

Dwelling in the Word was led by Rev. Katherine. John 15:12-17.

### **Vestry Visitor-Roger Stratton, Minister of Music**

Successes:

- His repertoire of songs fitting with the time and events, liturgical planning and seasonal rhythms
- Youth led Sunday planning was really special focusing on the needs of the community.
- Evensongs were lovely with more attendance.
- Community night helped to build relationships beyond the choir.
- His work with volunteer scheduling has created stability and will continue.

Goals and Growth Areas:

- Music with children and youth has been a challenge with scheduling, but he will keep trying. He is trying new ideas with Godly play and the Peace Table.
- The adult choir has grown with a new member, but Roger would like to see more growth.
- Working on paper management to calm the frenetic pace of rehearsals. Also, he is trying to use less paper for more eye contact and intimacy.
- Christmas music doesn't always gel because many people are gone. It's informal and for many that's good; however, some might miss or like a high church music program.

What kind of help can the Vestry offer?

- A slight increase of money for music sheet music was requested.
- We can support Roger's passion for the expanse of language and liturgy. Language issues involving gender inclusivity and imperialism need to be addressed. The hymnal is not going to be updated. Is education the work of liturgy? The national church encourages Roger to explore the web as there are many resources for alternative liturgies.
- Roger encourages us to participate in choir opportunities anytime.

**The Vestry so appreciates Roger's outstanding work and leadership as Minister of Music. We congratulate him as he was received into the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Association of Musicians. The Bishop and many others respect his expertise and call upon Roger often. Thank you, Roger!**

### **Discernment Topic-Justice**

- Reviewed the 4 basic priorities as seen on the ECMN website: <https://episcopalmn.org/justice>

#### *How can we ensure a strong vestry and congregation presence in justice activities?*

- We can become more involved by participating in activities outside our organized actions. We discussed how Huldah achieves involvement; she is very proactive. How will we fill the gap when Huldah leaves? Bonnie would like to meet with Huldah; Becky Sweeney is also interested.
- Katherine stated opportunities come via emails regularly.
- Find out about events that are already happening and communicate them. Use of the narthex TV. \*A sidelight to the TV-it's a work in progress and greatly appreciated. Thank you to Bonnie, Cathy and all who helped. A future goal is to support a group to creatively run with it.
- Loaves and Fishes could be emphasized more.

#### *How can we model promoting justice, expansiveness, and hospitality encouraging the congregation to do so as well?*

- Inviting people personally is so effective. Example: Inviting someone to Loaves and Fishes encouraging us all to be "the hands and feet of Jesus".
- Discussions about justice topics during coffee time.

#### *Our next steps:*

- Involve Becky, Bonnie and Rita to build a team.
- Perhaps generate a phone tree to involve others.
- Lead by example. Volunteer for Loaves and Fishes and invite someone.
- Beyond Newcomer Brunch, ask new members what they are interested in.
- Educate others about Realm Training.

### **Gratitude and Recognitions**

- **Kite Makers/Designers** \*Katherine sent a note to Julia Luna. \*Bonnie will generate a thank you on the narthex TV to Anna, Mary and Maggie Idzik and Maggie's friend June, Vonnie and Marcus Fiedler, Marty Scott and Gavin Ferro.
- **Newcomer's Brunch** \*Ann will write a note to Maggie Idzik; Cathy will send one to Jane Sandsmark.

- **Blanket sewers** \*Andy will send a note to Janet McKernan. Julia will thank Luana Tucker, and Ann will send one to Joanne Allen.
- **Food preparation** \*David will send a note to Charity Harvala for the meals she has prepared. David will write a note to Mes Amis for the involvement in the variety show.

### **Review and Approve**

- May Vestry minutes were approved as written.
- May 2025 Financials were approved. Stephen reported a good month; pledges continue to be good. \$7,500 backpay for rent from St. David's School. The year to date net total was 47% more than planned.
- We will vote to confirm the Standing committee members at our next meeting.

### **Updates/New Business**

- Rector's report
- Warden's report-David encouraged us all to attend Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> to welcome the Bishop.
- Buildings and Grounds issues. Julia reported a small animal issue. Cathy will ask Randy what the protocol is for reporting an issue.
- Update on meeting with Mes Amis: Randy, David Pearson, and David Niles met with Rose to discuss rectifying the lease. A two year lease for 2024-26 had been proposed. There may be a rewriting of the lease. Making a longer lease may be discussed. Rose has been happy with her lease situation. She was thrilled to be involved with community night. Mike emphasized that this was an example of justice and building relationships.
- Raffle ticket sales are currently underway. Not to be a criticism, some new thoughts were discussed. Some parishioners' questions have arisen. Does everything have to be fundraiser? Is \$100 too much? Could we provide the option of giving a donation?
- Bonnie will provide dinner at the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Thanks so much to Charity Harvala for preparing this evening's meal, and Andy for serving.

Closing prayer was led by David.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Hayek, Clerk

