

Minutes of the St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting June 20, 2023

Present: Senior Warden: Debbie Kremers; Junior Warden: Dick LeClaire; Clerk: Susan Wilcox

Vestry Members: Art Menke, Julie Parmenter, Dan Wancura, Justin Anderson, Margareta Knopik, Will Henderson, Gretchen Sullivan, and Jaime Keltner

Absent: Rector: Fr. David Cox; Treasurer: Carol Zoellner; Amy Moore; Beth Lee; and Betsy Ordonez

Ms. Kremers called the meeting to order in the South Classroom at 6:31 PM. She noted that, given that the May meeting had to be canceled, the Rector authorized this meeting to take place though he was unable to attend.

Mr. Henderson led evening devotions.

FORMATION

Vestry members will continue study of the book *Beyond the Offering Plate* with Chapter 7 at the July meeting.

DISCUSSION

Financial Report

Ms. Zoellner emailed the financial reports for April and May to Vestry members because she could not attend the June meeting. In emailed comments, she called attention to the unfavorable balances YTD for May: \$7K in pledged income and \$22K in unpledged income. In reviewing the reports, Ms. Kremers noted that a greater concern is the \$22K unfavorable YTD balance in expenses. Since "Building Maintenance and Repairs" comprise \$14K of the shortfall, Ms. Zoellner asked in her email that the Vestry advise Mr. LeClaire and Mr. Kirkwood, the Building Administrator, how the Vestry wants the expense problem to be managed. Mr. LeClaire said that the 64-year-old building is prone to repair issues as various components reach the end of their functionality. Plumbing problems, including the recent failure of four out of the fourteen toilets, must be addressed as they arise. Delays can be considered for less urgent repairs. Mr. Kirkwood's monthly hardware expenditures have increased from \$1K per month to \$2K per month, but Mr. LeClaire does not find that increase to be unreasonable. There was discussion of lawn and grounds care options, including parish volunteers mowing the lawns. Liability concerns are a drawback to that scenario. Ms. Kremers may invite the Parish Administrator to attend a Vestry meeting and explain how changing parish demographics are affecting income.

Junior Warden's Report

Mr. LeClaire passed out copies of a sketch showing the locations of trees in the front lawn that need dead branches removed. He is concerned about the risk to pedestrians and cars. Mr. Kirkwood is seeking estimates for trimming. Ms. Sullivan will check with the City of Mission to find out whether the city will accept responsibility for the trees. Mr. Wancura and Mr. Anderson will offer names of competitive contractors. Ms. Kremers will call for a Vestry vote to authorize the expense when an acceptable bid is received.

Signage Committee

Ms. Kremers announced the decision of the Signage Committee to work with graphic designer Stephanie Voss to develop interior and exterior signage and design for a more attractive and welcoming facility which will be easier for newcomers to navigate. Fr. Cox and the committee are enthusiastic about Ms. Voss's proposals. Her research included a survey which Vestry members completed online before the meeting.

Ministry Leaders

Vestry members received several files from Ms. Sullivan last month listing the many ministries and their participants within St. Michael's. Ms. Ordonez helped in gathering the information. Ms. Sullivan urged Vestry members to build on that effort to complete and share information on the St. Michael's website. An example she showed was a description of the book club prepared by Bev Wharton. Mr. Menke asked who might help format attractive copy for the website. Ms. Capps and Ms. Beedle are available, and Ms. Sullivan also volunteered. Ms. Kremers suggested that ministries could host coffee hours and use that opportunity to provide information to parishioners. Through contacts with various ministries, Vestry members are to solicit additional inviting descriptions for the website and other promotional avenues, so ministries can connect with more parishioners and let the wider community know about the impressive scope of St. Michael's activities.

Ministry Engagement:

Small Dinner Groups

Mr. Wancura has launched an online sign-up, available in the Week-by-Week email, for those interested in small dinner groups. Since schedules are unpredictable in the summer, the groups will likely begin meeting in the fall.

Stewardship

Mr. Menke asked for help in presenting the stewardship ministry on the website. He will send a pre-campaign stewardship letter in July. The team will decide on this year's theme in August.

Meatless Monday

Attendance has been variable, Mr. Wancura reported, with the largest group coming during Fr. Breedlove's visit. The speaker from the KC Farm School was excellent.

Altar Guild

The current Holy Family sculpture group, displayed during the Christmas season every year, is damaged and stylistically outdated. Altar Guild member Lydia Dreyer was researching replacements but had found nothing suitable. Happily, St. Michael's parishioner Mary Pyle has enthusiastically agreed to accept a commission to create a new Holy Family grouping. The artwork will be dedicated to Ms. Dreyer and Ms. Richardson in recognition of their long service in the Altar Guild.

Horizons Arts Council

Ms. Sullivan announced the up-coming St. John's Bible display sponsored by the Horizons Arts Council. An event showcasing a facsimile of this unique Bible, which features a completely handwritten calligraphic text and original art, was scheduled for March 2020, and canceled because of the pandemic. The facsimile belongs to Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral. Fortunately, St. Michael's now has the opportunity to collaborate with Four Chapters Church, where a 50-print display is currently in place. Both churches will save significant shipping charges. Horizons will invite several speakers in conjunction with the display, and will offer books, cards, and artwork for purchase.

GPS and Sunday School

Ms. Kremers led a wide-ranging conversation about the current state of the GPS (Giving Parents Support) program as well as Children's Chapel and Sunday School options. Vestry members commented on their experiences in previous years. Fr. Cox has suggested that parents be surveyed regarding their preferences for children's education and formation. **For**

the July meeting, Vestry members are to formulate questions to be included in that survey. Concern about low church attendance among children and youth is occurring throughout the Diocese and among non-Episcopalian congregations. Mr. Henderson remarked that there seems to be a substantial cohort in the nursery now which may result in larger Sunday School classes in coming years. Consideration was given to changes in the service schedule, but no firm proposals emerged.

Other Issues

Ms. Kremers asked Vestry members to think about the current Outreach programs and evaluate how well they are carrying out St. Michael's mission.

In response to a question from the Gardening Angels, Mr. LeClaire said that he is preparing to build a wooden altar to be installed on the northeast lawn for outdoor services.

Sunday Announcements

The sign-up list was circulated. Mr. Henderson commented that he likes the diversity of styles that different Vestry members bring when they make the announcements. They offer the congregation an authentic look at their Vestry representatives.

DECISIONS

Ms. Keltner noted a discrepancy in the April Minutes. They were approved as corrected. The financial reports were accepted.

CLOSING

The next Vestry meeting will be July 18.

Mr. Henderson read the Prayer of General Thanksgiving.

Mr. Henderson moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 PM. Ms. Keltner seconded the motion, which passed.