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VESTRY MEETING MINUTES Monday, September 28, 2020

Vestry Present: Newman Aguiar, Richard Ammons, Leigh Bordley, Amanda Fratrick, Treat Harvey, Pamela Njai, Daniel Pearson, Kelly Ryan, David Shumate, Freda Tucker, Glenn Walters, Callie Woods

Clergy Present: Sally French, Stephen Mazingo

Guests Present: Charlie Steel, Bynum Walter, Elizabeth Newman, Ed Embree

Call to Order The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church convened on September 28, 2020 at 6:02 p.m. via Zoom, the Senior Warden being the chair and the Clerk being present. Sally French opened the meeting with a prayer.

Stephen Mazingo shared a few words with us.

Minutes (see Dropbox)

We reviewed the minutes from the regular vestry meeting of August 24, 2020. Pamela Njai made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular vestry meeting of August 24, 2020. Daniel Pearson seconded the motion. The motion was approved nem. con.

We reviewed the minutes from the special vestry meeting of Sept 13, 2020. Dan Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes of the special vestry meeting of Sept 13, 2020. Amanda Fratrick seconded the motion. The motion was approved nem. con.

We reviewed the minutes from the special vestry meeting of Sept 15, 2020. Newman Aguiar made a motion to approve the minutes of the special vestry meeting of Sept 15, 2020. Daniel Pearson seconded the motion. The motion was approved nem. con.

Treasurer's Report (see Dropbox)

- Charlie Steel presented the Treasurer's Report, the Financial Report, and the audit
- Amanda moved to approve the September Financial Report. Newman Aguiar seconded the motion. The motion was approved nem. con.
- Callie Woods moved to approve the October Financial Report. Kelly Ryan seconded the motion. The motion was approved nem con.

New Business

Vestry Elections

- Ed Embree spoke to the Vestry about Vestry Elections during COVID
- Article 9 and 10 of the Constitution of the Diocese were shared with the Vestry
- Canons 23, 25, and 27 also deal with parish responsibilities and duties
- St Philip's does not have a bylaw that allows absentee ballots, voting must occur in person. New bylaws must be adopted at an annual meeting of the parish.
- Canon 22, Section 2, Paragraph E gives the remaining members of the Vestry the right to fill vacancies that occur on the Vestry. This is a canon that can be used for the remaining vestry to elect successor members of the vestry. Many churches without absentee ballots right now are looking to this Canon to determine how to fill Vestry vacancies.
- The annual meeting is the 4th Sunday in January. The Vestry can designate an alternate date but it can be no more than 2 months either before or after the fourth Sunday in January
- We could send out a straw poll that is sent out to everyone. The vestry could then be informed by the results of the straw poll when they fill the vacancy. This would allow for wider participation
- Canon 33 permits vestries and certain diocesan institutions to adopt bylaws and rules to permit conducting meetings through remote access. Canon 33.4 specifically excludes annual parish meetings and the diocesan convention from the permissions otherwise granted by this canon.
- Moving forward the Vestry expressed a desire to eventually adopt a bylaw allowing absentee ballots so that we can better include all members of our parish and hear all voices.

Family Fun Night

- Pamela Njai presented a proposal for a Fun Night

Old Business

Harris Property Discernment Committee Quarterly Report

- Elizabeth Newman presented the Harris Property Discernment Committee Quarterly Report

- The committee will be coming back in October with requests to extend the discernment period. They also anticipate requesting that the Ryals funds that were allocated be held.
- A request was made to prepare the monthly operating expenses for the house for the Vestry in October.

Campus Study Quarterly Report

- Bynum Walter presented the Campus Study report
- Bynum met with Clearscapes and they are very much encouraging us to move ahead with the environmental assessment because it will be vital for us to understand the condition of the parking lot and corner lot area. Currently, we do not have a clear idea of what is under the ground.
- The initial assessment requires no action but any disturbance of the site would require us to potentially take action.
- Bynum Walters requested that the Vestry refer this matter to the finance committee for an assessment of how we may pay for the environmental assessment.

Stewardship Report

- Treat Harvey presented the stewardship report
- A letter was sent to 325 households and several pledges have already been received.

Outreach

- Freda Tucker and Leigh Bordley presented the Outreach Report
- The outreach chairs looked into a number of organizations for Covid relief
- Global Missions Ministry normally has an annual fundraiser in November and December but the situation has changed drastically. They still want to have the fundraiser because they need a way to raise money. With the consent of the vestry they would like to have a virtual fundraiser in November. They will submit a formal request to the Vestry.

Racial Justice and Reconciliation Proposal

- Amanda Fratrik presented the committee's proposal (Dropbox).
- The committee wants to raise up anti-racism work and awareness as a whole. They would like the vestry to commit to taking on some of this work individually and as a whole. They are asking us to pass the proposed resolution.
- Kelly Ryan moved approval for the resolution. Leigh Bordley seconded the motion. The motion passed 11-1.
- From a practical standpoint, holding ourselves accountable can start with all Vestry members attending REI training and having a devotional at the beginning of the meeting about anti-racism.

- Kelly Ryan moved to have a sign in front of the Church saying “St Philip’s working towards Racial Justice”. Leigh Bordley seconded the motion. The motion was approved nem con.

Junior Warden’s Report (see Dropbox)

- Daniel Pearson presented the Junior Warden’s report.

Senior Warden’s Report (see Dropbox)

- Richard Ammons presented the Senior Warden’s report.
- Glenn Walters has agreed to chair the nominations committee which will consist of Glenn Walters, Dan Pearson, Pamela Njai and Callie Woods in addition to a fifth member from the congregation. Richard Ammons charged the committee with thinking of how we will hold vestry elections in this key year.

Associate Rectors Report

- Sally French presented the Associate Rector’s Report.
- Many people have been working hard on how we may adapt to livestreaming Sunday’s service.
- Dan Pearson motioned to authorize the signing of the no trespassing order. Pamela Njai seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-2.

Pastoral Concerns

- Sally French shared pastoral concerns

Dismissal and Adjournment Kelly Ryan closed with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Callie Woods, Clerk