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VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 20, 2021

Vestry Present: Gail Albergo, Richard Ammons, Leigh Bordley, Amanda Fratrick, Treat Harvey, Adam McClellan, David Shumate, Freda Tucker

Vestry Absent: Newman Aguiar, Leigh Egeghy, Connie Semans

Clergy Present: Maryann Younger, Gabe Lamazares

Guests Present: Treasurer Ginny Bowman

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church convened on December 22, 2021 at 6:12 pm in the St. Philip's Parish Hall, the Rector being in the chair, and the Clerk-designee being present.

Maryann Younger opened the meeting with a poem.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the November 29, 2021 meeting
2. Rector's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Senior Warden's Report
5. Junior Warden's Report

MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda made by Treat Harvey. Second by Freda Tucker. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Stewardship update – Richard Ammons reported that as of Friday 12/17/21, pledges total

\$659,970. The 2022 budget will reflect a 3.5% deduction in pledges (as per our usual custom to account for unpaid pledges over the course of the year), or \$636,871.

2. 2022 Budget review – Vestry members were able to ask questions about the budget so that the Finance Committee can answer them and tweak numbers if necessary. Questions were raised about Maintenance expense as well as allocated vs. unallocated funds in Outreach (still keeping the 9% level as we work towards the 10% benchmark).

Discussion took place about systematizing the allocation and use of Outreach funds, including more rigorous reporting on what is needed in each Ministry and how money was used each year, with emphasis on using it effectively to achieve Ministry goals. Outreach and Stewardship will work hand-in-hand to report to congregation how funds are being deployed year-round. Maryann would like a three- to four-person ad hoc committee to help put processes together in the spirit of continuous improvement and also to align Outreach with the parish's priorities. Some of our ministries need to recommit to their mission if they want to continue to receive funding and attention. Research is required to establish which ministries are active or inactive at this time. This will assist in future funding.

Vestry was asked to vote on two Reserve Fund proposals made by Finance Committee; one regarding additions to and use of reserve funds, and one regarding how the reserve fund target is calculated.

Vestry agreed that the target will be changed to reflect a range of 4-6 months of expenses rather than the current "50% of total income."

MOTION to approve Proposal 1 as written and Proposal 2 with new language as noted above, made by Adam McClellan. Second by Freda Tucker. Motion passed unanimously.

The Vestry will vote on the 2022 Budget at the January meeting. Ginny will email the Budget back out to the Vestry during the 2nd week of January (after the Finance Committee revisits it and responds to questions). All Vestry members who make comments or ask further questions should "Reply All" so that everyone is on the same page going forward.

MOTION to continue the 2021 budget until the 2022 budget is passed and thus to make the 2022 budget retroactive to January 1, 2022, made by Richard Ammons. Second by Adam McClellan. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Ash tree sale - Ginny Bowman reported that the sale has raised \$12,500 thus far (\$13,000 was budgeted) to benefit the Summer 2022 J2A Pilgrimage. Connie Semans organized the sale and put in extra time delivering bowls to parishioners. The Vestry acknowledged and recognized Connie in absentia for her great work and excellent results on the sale.

4. Vestry nominations – The list includes some former Senior Wardens and represents a lot of “institutional memory,” which will serve the parish well especially in light of challenges presented by COVID as well as help Maryann in her first full year at St. Philip’s. We also want to engage the nominees who are not elected, since they have talents to share. Maryann would like to know more about everyone’s skills and eagerly awaits the profiles that are submitted by nominees prior to the Annual Meeting in January. (Treat committed to send Nia a copy of the blank form for Vestry nominees in case Nia has not seen it in the computer files.)

MOTION to accept the slate proposed in Senior Warden’s report made by Leigh Bordley. Second by Amanda Fratrik. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

1. J2A Update - Adam McClellan reported that Emily Sparks is helping to get the youth back together as they have not been a cohesive group due to COVID (and thus not taking a pilgrimage last year as planned). This group will travel to Costa Rica this coming summer. Ash Tree Bowl sales benefit this year’s group since they were not able to host the usual biannual auction to raise money.

2. Ad-hoc Committees - Maryann Younger would like to launch them in 2022 to discuss and take action on Ministries, Facilities, and Outreach.

3. New Rector Installation – This special service will take place on Thursday 2/17/2022 at 6:30 p.m. Maryann is awaiting word from her preferred preacher. She will need a small committee of parishioners to support the service.

4. Afghan Refugee Support – Amanda Smith is spearheading the effort to support a family (or families) and has requested \$10,000 from the parish to this effect. Housing/rent is the most basic and considerable cost. We do have access to some funding from the GMC (both General and Non-Bromley line items) and Jill agreed to contribute from the Deacon’s Discretionary Fund.

Discussion/questions:

- How many parishioners are working on this project? Per Maryann, 10-12 people are on the committee.

- They are working with Church World Service and collaborating with other Durham churches.
- Is there still some Circle of Support money left since that Ministry has not functioned during COVID? Maryann will ask David Musgrave about the status of those funds.
- Ginny Bowman said that the original request was for \$5000 for three months of rental housing. New request would cover more rent and/or other expenses.
- Richard Ammons said that the group has identified a house for rent; the one-year lease agreement would require \$2500 for first and last month's rent and a security deposit for utilities.
- How do we help the whole congregation feel like they are a part of this project? Many people would undoubtedly want to donate furniture, household items, and money, if given the chance.
- Vestry would request that the committee host an Adult Forum in 2022 to discuss the process and experience with the parish.
- Treasurer hopes that requests directly to clergy for use of their discretionary funds for specific projects will stop.

Vestry agreed to the following:

1. Make an initial commitment of \$7500 to cover first, second, and last month's rent and utility deposits.
2. Create explicit communication with the parish about the use of this money and the family we are helping.
3. Require an Adult Forum presentation by the committee that would include "more ways to help."
4. Be prepared to grant another round of funding in 2022 if requested by committee.

Gratitude Moment: Maryann read to the Vestry a note from Mrs. Mitchell, the wife of Rev. Joe Mitchell; they are full of gratitude for their stay at St. Philip's in the Trees as Joe undergoes treatment at Duke Hospital. The Vestry acknowledged and recognized Elizabeth Newman for stepping up to coordinate the details of hosting the Mitchells at The Trees.

Gabe shared pastoral concerns.

Dismissal and Adjournment

Gabe closed with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. for a time of fellowship

Respectfully submitted,
Treat Harvey, Clerk-designee