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VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 24, 2022

Vestry Present: Newman Aguiar, Gail Albergo, Richard Ammons, Leigh Bordley, Leigh Egeghy, Rebecca Hix, Adam McClellan (Jr. Warden), Wes Newman (Clerk), Shamioka Rhinehart, Liz Sappenfield

Vestry Absent: Amanda Fratrack, Connie Semans (Sr. Warden)

Clergy Present: Rev. Maryann Younger, Rev. Gabe Lamazares

Guests Present: Ginny Bowman (Treasurer), Elizabeth Newman

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church convened on October 24, 2022 at 6:06 pm in the Parish Hall, the Rector being in the chair and the Clerk being present. Shamioka Rhinehart opened the meeting with a reflection and prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the September 26 meeting
- Treasurer's Report & Simplified Financial Report covering September
- Quarterly Endowment Portfolio Review for 9-30-22
- Rector's Report
- Associate Rector's Report
- Senior Warden's Report
- Junior Warden's Report
- Resolution authorizing the Wardens to sign The Trees documents
- Revised Scope of Work for strategic planning consulting

Rebecca requested that the Strategic Planning SoW and the Trees signature resolution be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Discussion Agenda. Liz moved approval of the remaining seven Consent items, Leigh Bordley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Harris Property Discernment Committee Bi-Annual Report: Elizabeth Newman presented the bi-annual written report of the committee and updated the Vestry on current activities at The Trees, including the agreement with Henry Kennelly to serve as resident caretaker, the likely delay until January 2023 in beginning to host LEAP class activities until regulatory issues are resolved with Orange County, discussions with several external groups about collaborations around environmental ministry, and the beginning of the committee's formal discernment discussions moderated by the Rev. Robert Fruewirth. The Vestry expressed appreciation for the role The Trees has played in parish life over the

past year, particularly as a non-traditional worship space. Maryann suggested that the discernment committee consider field trips to visit similar programs elsewhere.

Roof Repairs & Church Renovation Planning: Adam presented proposals for roofing repairs on the Parish House building and to hire Clearscapes to lead preliminary planning for repairs to the Church building. Ginny confirmed that adequate funding is available from the reserve surplus and from interest earned on the temporarily invested funds from the anonymous bequest. The Vestry agreed that the approved amounts for both projects should include both the base proposal and some additional contingent funds to allow for overages. Shamioka moved approval of the roof repair project not to exceed \$47,000 and the Church renovation planning not to exceed \$16,000. Leigh Bordley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Parish Healing & Reconciliation: Maryann updated the Vestry on the completion of her telephone outreach to every parishioner, and the Vestry agreed that this work and the recent “Come As You Are” events have had positive results. Maryann noted that some parishioners remain concerned about our perceived slow progress in implementing various new initiatives. The hope is that the upcoming strategic planning/visioning project will help the parish achieve consensus on how to move forward.

Vestry Retreat Debrief: Maryann summarized the Campus Study Committee presentation and subsequent discussions at the recent retreat on the topic of the proposed UMD Homeless Service Center and related land swap between St. Philip’s and Durham County. Much planning remains to be done, but there is a growing consensus among the Vestry that the project is worthy of our full support and engagement.

Strategic Planning Scope of Work: On Connie’s behalf, Maryann explained that the draft Scope of Work for a consultant/facilitator has been significantly revised to reflect increased urgency for reaching parish consensus on upcoming new initiatives – “re-affirming” the strategic direction established pre-pandemic as opposed to starting the process from scratch. The current draft would benefit from additional Vestry input, and members are requested to comment via email as soon as possible. Newman observed that new vestry members elected in early 2023 will have a learning curve on this topic, and we should work to get them up to speed as quickly as possible.

Vestry Nomination Bylaw Change: Adam confirmed that an adult forum will be held on Dec. 11 to present and discuss the proposed bylaw changes. Wes is working on an FAQ document for use in communication with parishioners. The Vestry discussed the need for clarity on how the voting process will occur in 2024 if the bylaw is adopted, specifically the potential situation where one or more of the four Vestry nominees does not receive a majority of votes. Adam will follow up on this in time for additional bylaw language to be approved at the Vestry’s November meeting if necessary.

St. Philip’s Feast Day: Richard provided wrap-up comments on this event, which was judged to be very successful. Although it was initially planned as a potluck, the final decision was to purchase the main dish from Alpaca and ask attendees to bring potluck side dishes and desserts. He expressed gratitude to the regular Coffee Hour committee for their extensive support. The Vestry discussed moving the “food truck” Homecoming event to next year’s St. Philip’s Feast Day.

Annual Meeting Dates: Maryann proposed Feb. 12, 2023 as the Annual Meeting date, with Jan. 29 as the per-Annual Meeting date at which Vestry nominations will be accepted from the floor and the proposed bylaw change will be presented. Adam moved approval, Rebecca seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The vestry did not meet in Executive Session.

DISMISSAL AND ADJOURNMENT

Maryann closed with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wes Newman, Clerk