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VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Vestry Present: Gail Albergo, Lowell Dargbeh, Leigh Egeghy, Erin Gasch, Rebecca Hix, Sarah Johnson, Adam McClellan, Wes Newman (Clerk), Shamioka Rhinehart, Liz Sappenfield (Jr. Warden), Connie Semans (Sr. Warden), Richard Williams. No absences.

Clergy Present: Rev. Maryann Younger (Chair), Rev. Gabe Lamazares

Guests Present: Ginny Bowman (Treasurer), Gail Belvett, Duncan Krause, Laura Nichols (Stewardship Committee)

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church convened on February 27, 2023 at 6:02 pm in the Parish Hall with the Rector presiding. Leigh opened with a devotional reading.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the January 23 vestry meeting & February 12 parish annual meeting
- Treasurer's Report & Simplified Financial Report covering January
- Rector's Report
- Associate Rector's Report
- Senior Warden's Report
- Junior Warden's Report

Rebecca amended the January 23 minutes to note that the Afghan refugee family was to receive a letter from the church confirming that financial support would end following payment of April rent. Shamioka agreed to follow up with Leigh Bordley. Rebecca also asked for clarification on the cost of the roof replacement project, and Liz and Adam responded that the cost had not yet been finalized.

Maryann emphasized the current need for additional youth group leaders, mentioned in her Rector's Report. We are seeking at least five new adult leaders, especially female ones.

Ginny informed the vestry that the detailed monthly financial statements would no longer be automatically distributed with the monthly vestry package, but will continue to be available from her by request. All vestry members are also invited to attend Finance Committee meetings if they are interested in a more in-depth exposure to our church finances.

Liz moved approval of the Consent Agenda as amended, Shamioka seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Stewardship Report: Gail Belvett and Duncan Krause presented a detailed wrap-up of the stewardship campaign for 2023, including pledge statistics, and introduced Laura Nichols who has joined the leadership team. The campaign returned to an in-person format this year with pandemic concerns abating. It piggybacked on the “Come As You Are” theme, with a message rooted in gratitude. The stewardship leaders were encouraged by the response from parishioners and pleased with the results, although pledging remains depressed below pre-pandemic, pre-clergy transition levels.

The vestry discussed the possible causes and potential solutions for the decline in pledging, strategies for growing our pledging back to previous levels, and the need for confidentiality guidelines to control the tracking and analysis of pledge data.

Strategic Visioning: Connie presented a final proposal from Saison Consulting (Nathan Kirkpatrick). Billing will be hourly, based on some uncertainty about the final scope of work, and is estimated to total \$6,000. Nathan is planning to attend the March 25 vestry retreat and lead four hours of group work. Richard moved approval of the Saison proposal with a not-to-exceed cap of \$6,000. Leigh seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Lead Technology Role: Adam presented his goals for 2023 in his new role as technology leader. He will focus on implementing a common file-sharing system, expanding the implementation of Realm, centralizing and cleaning up the existing multiple databases of parishioner information, and reviewing the church’s external IT consultant.

Ad Hoc Vestry Committees for 2023: Connie asked each vestry member to rank their preferred ad hoc committee to join for the coming year. She will use this information to create the new committees.

Vestry Communications to Parish: Liz noted that we frequently field questions from parishioners about issues the vestry is currently working on. Wes volunteered as Clerk to create a short list of 3-6 items following each vestry meeting, which could then be publicized by Grace as appropriate.

Introduction of New Vestry Members: Maryann welcomed new vestry members Lowell Dargbeh, Erin Gasch, Sarah Johnson and Richard Williams, who were elected on February 12.

Election of Wardens and Treasurer: Maryann nominated Connie Semans, Liz Sappenfield and Ginny Bowman to serve as Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Treasurer respectively. Shamioka moved that the slate be elected, Erin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Maryann also announced that Wes Newman would like to hand off the Clerk role after serving since February 2022. Any vestry member interested in taking on the role should contact her directly. If none show interest, she will consider other parishioners. Wes will continue to serve in the meantime.

Parochial Report for 2022: Gabe reviewed the draft Parochial Report and explained the changes in how attendance/participation are now being reported. Connie moved approval of the report, Lowell seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Annual Meeting Debrief: Maryann commented that the Annual Meeting went very well this year as we returned to an in-person format. The vestry election went smoothly with all four new members elected on the first ballot. The rector’s Annual Address and the committee reports were all well received.

ADJOURNMENT

Maryann closed with a prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wes Newman, Clerk