

# St Philip's

episcopal church

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## **Vestry Meeting Minutes Monday, April 24, 2023**

**Vestry Members Present:** Gail Albergo, Lowell Dargbeh, Leigh Egeghy, Erin Gasch, Rebecca Hix (Clerk), Sarah Johnson, Adam McClellan, Wes Newman, Shamiaka Rhinehart, Liz Sappenfield (Jr. Warden), Connie Semans (Sr. Warden), and Richard Williams.

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

**Guest Present:** Ginny Bowman (Treasurer), Kelly Ryan

**Call to Order:** The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church convened on April 24, 2023 at 6:03 pm in the Library with the Rector presiding. Lowell opened with a devotional reading and prayer.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes of the March 27 vestry meeting
2. Minutes of the April 17 special vestry meeting
3. Treasurer's Report & Simplified Financial Report covering March
4. Rector's Report
5. Associate Rector's Report
6. Senior Warden's Report
7. Junior Warden's Report
8. Technology Report

Gail motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Richard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Brief Updates**

1. Kelly Ryan joined the Vestry to share an update on her discernment process for ordination to date. After several questions about her process, Leigh moved that we endorse and approve Kelly Ryan for candidacy to the Vocational Diaconate. Sarah seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Vestry was reminded that Kelly will be preaching at St. Philip's in two weeks.
2. Ginny gave an update on the financial assessment that Chazin is conducting. A contract for the assessment has been executed, a deposit paid and our contact has done all of the interviews except one. We expect to have their report within two – three weeks.

3. Maryann thanked everyone for participating in Holy Week. There were \_\_\_\_ services in 8 days. We had about 450 people attend throughout the week. The whole week was inspiring. There were many newcomers and conversation is happening about hosting another newcomer breakfast.

### **Discussion – Church Renovations**

Ginny went back to Finance Committee with more information about the church renovation costs and asked for an updated recommendation on how much to spend on the renovation. The Finance Committee gave the same recommendation; that the Vestry not allocate more than \$675,000 for the renovations. There is significant concern about the projected deficit of endowment income, which, absent new revenue, will result in large future budget deficits.

Liz explained that the deficit projections come from principal loss and lost pledging. In 2020, 68% of the operating budget came from pledging. This year 48% of the operating budget came from pledges. The budget has grown by approximately \$200,000 since 2020.

Wes clarified that our bylaws require 1/6 of our operating expenses be kept in reserves. A previous Vestry recommended that we have 4 – 6 months of reserves, but did not change the bylaws, which takes a vote of the congregation to amend. Wes said this Vestry has a significant amount of work to do about the projected budget deficit.

Liz shared a spreadsheet comparing 4 Scope of Work scenarios of slate versus shingle roof costs and completing the other interior work versus not completing that work. With the estimates we have right now, only the shingle roof without any other interior work (minus the contingency) comes in at under the Finance Committee's recommended amount.

Discussion ensued about the Finance Committee recommendations and the Scope of Work scenarios. After all Vestry members shared their point of view, Richard put a motion on the table that we move forward with the scenario of a slate roof, without plaster, paint and flooring repairs, and ask the congregation to raise the balance of funds needed (which is approximately \$159,000). Lowell seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The motion passed with an 8 to 4 vote. This scenario will be presented to the congregation during the Adult Forum on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Vestry also committed to 100% participation in raising the additional funds needed and each person agreed to email their pledge to Connie in the next three to four days.

Shamieka moved that we approve the ClearScapes Scope of Work for the next phase of renovation. Connie seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Richard, Connie, Rebecca, Liz, Shamieka and Maryann agreed to form a small group to plan for the Adult Forum. It was agreed that we ask Richard Ammons to join the small group. We will meet on Wednesday night after dinner.

Maryann agreed to consult with Richard Ammons about putting a donate button on our website and whether now was the right time for that or if we needed to wait until a more formal campaign was in place.

Maryann asked Vestry members to attend the Durham CAN meeting on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 7pm at Duke Memorial Methodist. There is a pre-meeting gathering starting at 5:30pm.

### **Summary of Meeting**

The Vestry discussed bullet points for the congregation to be included in the Epistle about the content of the Vestry meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Maryann closed the meeting with a prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca S. Hix  
Clerk