

St Philip's

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Vestry Meeting Monday, May 22, 2023 - 6:00pm

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

Clergy Present: The Rev. Maryann Younger (Chair), The 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 April 24, 2023 at 6:08 pm in the Parish Hall with the Rector presiding. Rebecca opened with a devotional reading and prayer.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the April 24 vestry meeting
2. Treasurer's Report & Simplified Financial Report covering March
3. Rector's Report
4. Associate Rector's Report
5. Senior Warden's Report
6. Junior Warden's Report
7. Technology Report

Sarah had a question about how recruiting youth leaders was progressing. Maryann said that we are struggling to find youth ministers. Sarah recommended that we include that in the Vestry bullets. Rebecca asked about when Realm would re-launched to the congregation. Adam said that first we had to get the data right, and then we could relaunch.

Connie motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Adam seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

New Business

Maryann informed the Vestry that although we have had many conversations about the campus study, the Vestry has not passed a formal motion endorsing **the discernment of a new building for Urban Ministries of Durham**. It has become necessary for the Vestry to do that because conversations have started with elected officials and funders. A motion was made: **In gratitude for 35 years of collaboration and shared ministry with Urban Ministries of Durham, and in recognition of the vital role UMD plays in serving the needs in the downtown community, the Vestry of St. Philip's Church extends its support and agreement in principal with the development of plans to facilitate**

UMD's construction of a new Homeless Services Center on the southeast quadrant of our campus, and authorizes the Rector, Wardens and Campus Study Committee to move forward with negotiations with the County and other stakeholders toward a goal of developing a detailed proposal for review and approval by the Vestry at a future date. Wes moved that we accept the motion. Shamioka seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Elizabeth Newman gave a bi-annual report from the **Harris Property Discernment Committee (HPDC)**.

- She appreciated the time to update the Vestry and get feedback.
- Reminded the Vestry that Liz and Leigh are members of the HPDC.
- She shared some background on the HPDC:
 - In the Fall 2019, the HPDC was formed by the Vestry to provide a recommendation on appropriate use of the Jacqueline Harris property left to the church.
 - It did not have use of Jacqueline's financial gift as a part of the process.
 - In the Spring of 2021, the HPDC asked for an extension of its discernment process until December of 2024.
 - The Vestry decided to use part of the Environmental allocation of the Ryals gift to fund the discernment process. 45% of the Ryals gift will be used at the Trees, so if the parish decides to sell the property, that portion of the Ryals gift will need to be used for another environmental project.
- Got approval for tax exempt status, which means money is coming back into the account, because there was a refund on property taxes.
- When Elizabeth met with the Vestry last October, she shared that our caretaker, Henry Kinley was an incredible gift to the community. He would like to work with us for another year, while he is in the process of discernment for ordination.
- They will be creating programming for 2023 to learn about what uses for The Trees there would be and how does it hold up over time. They have learned that there is a real hunger for small gatherings reflecting on our spiritual journeys and that it is nice to be out there, removed from the busyness of life.
- LEAP is all in, at The Trees. They go out every Thursday morning, rain or shine, and it is having a big impact on the children.
- Grace has created a beautiful page on the St. Philip's website for The Trees.
- They are talking about doing monthly worship out there.
- Over the next year, they are hoping to visit a few places, like retreat centers, to learn about their operating model.
- The HPDC plans to engage more with the congregation in the Fall and early 2024. They are interested in recommendations for who else they should reach out to about using the property.
- Erin recommended they reach out to area faith leaders and invite them out to the site to see it and its potential for hosting meetings and other gatherings.
- Leigh shared that the committee is grateful for the extension of time which is proving to be rich and meaningful.
- It was recommended that we invite the whole congregation out there, and our greater community.
- Gail asked if there was anything to be done on the topic of creation care, and that there were probably other groups that could teach us.
- Leigh thanked Elizabeth and Duncan for their leadership and work.

Discussion Items

Church Renovation and Fundraising updates. Liz shared the plan for asbestos abatement at the Parish House without disrupting the staff. On Friday, June 2nd, there is a workday by the structural engineer in the church. Roofers will start on June 12th. Liz has not had any concerns or complaints about the project. Maryann shared that the parish has pledged \$108,000 and we have \$42,000 in hand to fund the gap between what our investments are paying for. This project needs to be uncoupled from any other campaign. We still have \$92,000 to raise. Connie asked that any Vestry members that had not made a pledge yet, to do so, in the near future. Maryann asked anyone able to pay their roof renovation pledge this month, that would be great. Erin, Connie, Richard Ammons, Duncan Krause, Gail Belvett and Laura Nichols form the fundraising committee for this effort.

Brief updates

The Move – Rebecca informed the Vestry that the move is scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd from 9am – 12Noon and we have a good group of volunteers coming out. We need some deputies from the Vestry to help lead the groups.

Chazin Report Update – Ginny informed the Vestry that we received the assessment from Chazin. When they asked for a formal engagement letter the estimate came in very high. They are regrouping and will come back to the Vestry with a recommendation.

Delegates to Convention – Maryann informed the Vestry that since we are cleaning up our member rolls, in the future we will probably have fewer delegates for Convention. For the 2023 Convention the following have agreed to serve as delegates: Robin Kneeburg, Rebecca Hix, Alec Motten, Paul Jacobson, with Duncan Krause serving as an alternate. Shamioka moved that we accept this slate of delegates for Convention. Richard seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Check-in – Connie reminded the Vestry about subcommittee assignments and that each subcommittee would report out at the next Vestry meeting. She also reported that on Wednesday, June 21st, there will be an open parish event to do visioning.

There was discussion about the possibility of holding a **July Vestry Meeting**. The Vestry agreed to keep the meeting on our calendars, but then cancel if we did not need to hold a meeting.

The St. Philip's Finance Committee recommends that approximately \$200,000 of the funds invested in the three local financial institutions, currently earning between .5% and 2.44% be invested in **the Short-Term Investment Fund** with the potential to earn over 4.5% to assist in reducing the budget deficit. The bank account earning .5% would be closed and two credit union accounts would remain open with \$20,000 in each account. Wes moved that the Vestry approve the Finance Committee's recommendation. Erin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca S. Hix
Clerk