

# St Philip's

episcopal church

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## September 25, 2023 Vestry Meeting Minutes

**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

**Guests present:** Gail Belvett, Ginny Bowman, Duncan Krause, Laura Nichols

**Call to order:** The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Episcopal Church convened on September 25, 2023 at 6:06pm in the Library with the Senior Warden presiding. Liz offered a devotion and prayer.

### Consent Agenda

- Minutes of the August 28 vestry meeting
- Treasurer's Report & Simplified Financial Report covering August
- Rector's Report
- Senior Warden's Report
- Junior Warden's Report

Erin questioned the August 28<sup>th</sup> minutes, which said we would purchase curtains. Erin asked if we had considered asking some parishioners to make some. Erin agreed to reach out to some members of the parish about consulting on the curtains. Liz will advise Erin, how much money we have the budget for curtains.

Adam asked that we consider the upcoming annual transition of the Vestry, and think about whether we should have the Technology and REALM committee chaired by a Vestry person, or should it be a term appointed person, like we have with the Chancellor.

***Adam moved that the consent agenda be approved. Shamiaka seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.***

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### Stewardship Campaign

- Duncan Krause, Gail Belvett & Laura Nichols shared that the heart of the stewardship campaign will be the statement “we will.” Our biblical charge is to take care of each other.
- The campaign was gently kicked off with the All Things New dinner.
- The campaign will launch in late October.
  - They are putting together some videos.
  - At the January Vestry meeting they received feedback that we need some simple ways to explain our parish finances.
  - The stewardship committee hears every year, “you only call me to ask for money. In response, this year, everyone will be called inviting them to commitment Sunday – whether they are submitting pledges or not.
- The stewardship committee asked the status of the “one master list.”
  - Adam responded that it is in REALM, and Connie called the question whether it the list in REALM is accurate.
- The stewardship committee shared ideas being considered for the campaign.
  - Emphasize increasing pledge and plate income.
    - Will give examples of what a percentage increase would look like
  - Connie recommended that the stewardship committee present the ideas several different ways.
  - Rebecca thanked the stewardship committee for their diligence and hard work.
  - Gail Belvett appreciated that the Vestry, Clergy, and Stewardship committee are communicating better together. She also emphasized that the parish would appreciate knowing where the money is going.
  - Rebecca asked if we have a goal this year for the stewardship campaign.
    - The stewardship committee said they wanted the Vestry to set a goal.

### **Staffing Updates**

- The Vestry went into executive session to discuss staffing updates.

### **Proposal from Harris Property Discernment Committee to pay Caretaker in Residence a stipend.**

- Leigh shared that the Harris Property Discernment Committee (HPDC) is trying a number of things to determine how The Trees fits with our wider community. The calendar is very full.
- The Caretaker in Residence has been living at The Trees and was compensated for his time through free housing. As the programming is expanding, the job of Caretaker is larger and the HPDC would like to add a stipend of \$1,000/month to his compensation. This would come out of the HPDC budget. No extra funds are being requested of the parish.
- Connie commented that the stipend seemed very small.
- Connie requested that the HPDC determine how much time Henry is being asked to spend, what skills we are paying for, and the full compensation package they are proposing.
  - She also requested that they look at the proposal from a living wage point of view.
  - Erin commented that she also would like to see a total compensation number.
- Shamielka said that the Vestry was in agreement that he should get a stipend.

*Erin moved that the vestry approved the motion to pay The Trees caretaker a stipend of \$1000 a month, with the understanding that the HPDC will provide a more detailed report before the end of*

*the year which assesses whether this is sufficient compensation for the services provided by the caretaker. Richard seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

### **Homeless Services Center**

- Connie informed the Vestry that Sheldon Mitchell, Executive Director of Urban Ministries of Durham gave a very good presentation at the Adult Forum.
  - Connie encouraged the Vestry to absorb Sheldon's information and be ready to share it back.
  - A key message is the delta and the need are getting bigger.
- Connie informed the Vestry that the Sunday morning listening sessions are going well.
  - For the listening sessions, there is a notebook for someone to take notes, keeping comments confidential, and some hand-outs about the plans.
  - The Campus Study committee is reviewing the notebook regularly.
- Connie is working with Grace on a communications plan about the Homeless Services Center.
  - A comment wall outside the Library should be installed within a week or so.
- Connie received an email from the Vice Chancellor of Diocese, saying that if we had not signed the Memorandum of Understanding, there were a few things he would have us think about.
  - Connie wasn't concerned that we had signed the MOU; because he did not bring up any concerns that were game changers.

### **BRIEF UPDATES**

#### **Church Renovation**

- Phase 1 – Roof update.
  - Liz is rounding up the last of the bills for the Roof Renovation. The roofing crew was always on time, professional, and kind. Liz said that the roofer was always trying to save us money.
  - Liz expects that we will not spend the whole amount budgeted for this project, which is good because we can use that to pay for the recent HVAC replacement.
- Phase 2 – Steering Committee
  - Maryann and Connie are forming a committee to guide the work to be done in the interior of the church.
  - Many have offered to be on the committee, and there is hope to diversify the committee, in terms of age, experience, ability.
  - We are looking for people that are creative, have insight about worship in the space, and how it could be used for other purposes, would be welcome.
- Other building issues
  - Liz shared that we need to carefully watch our maintenance budget through the end of the year.
  - We have a list of repairs needed: fire alarm, elevator repair, get the church re-keyed.
  - We haven't paid for the refurbishment of the brick walkways.
  - Liz informed the Vestry that Ken Gasch is doing a fantastic job as deputy junior warden and there is a team of people working with him.

### **Verbal Committee Report-outs**

- Outreach committee
  - Shamioka informed the Vestry that the Outreach Committee is receiving funding requests; 8 proposals have been received. The committee will meet and bring their recommendations to the October Vestry meeting.
- Social/Inreach committee
  - Rebecca requested help from the Vestry for the October 15<sup>th</sup> St. Philip's Day/Homecoming celebration.
- Technology & REALM committee
  - Adam called the Vestry's attention to his written report.

### **Meeting talking points for Epistle**

1. Met with stewardship committee – working on goal setting and content
2. Maryann gave an update on on-going staffing changes
3. Update on spending expectations for plant facility
4. HCDP proposal for stipend.

### **Vestry book study of *How We Learn to Be Brave* by Bishop Mariann Edger Budde**

- The Vestry considered two questions:
  - When was a time in your life that you decided to GO.
  - When was in a time in your life that you decided to STAY.

### **Closing Prayer - *Maryann***

### **Of Special Note:**

- Lowell Dargbeh reminded the Vestry that Liberia elected the first female president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, on the continent of Africa in 2006.
- The Dargbeh's, after helping their children leave Liberia during the Civil War, decided they wanted to help with healthcare in the country as it recovered from the Civil War.
- Their plans were solidified under the incorporation of Liberia Medicals Incorporated.
  - There are St. Philipians on the board.
  - They have been approved for a 501©3.
  - They have bought two acres of land and, to date, have conducted 1,000 diabetes screenings.
  - They will add blood pressure and AIC checks on a return trip in October.
- They are officially launching the organization with a kick-off and fundraiser at St. Philip's on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca S. Hix  
Clerk