

St Philip's

episcopal church

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November 27, 2023 Vestry Minutes

Vestry members present: Leigh Egeghy, Erin Gasch, Rebecca Hix (Clerk), Adam McClellan, Wes Newman, Shamiela Rhinehart, Liz Sappenfield (Junior Warden), Connie Semans (Senior Warden) and Richard Williams

Vestry members absent: Gail Albergo, Lowell Dargbeh and Sarah Johnson

Clergy present: The Rev. Maryann D. Younger

Guests present: Ginny Bowman (Treasurer), Kelly Ryan

Call to order: The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Episcopal Church convened on November 27, 2023 at 6:09pm in the Library with the Rector presiding. Shamiela invited the Vestry to meditate on their thanksgivings as our opening prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Three questions were pulled out of the consent agenda to be discussed in Brief Updates.

Adam moved that we approve the consent agenda. Liz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Kelly Ryan's discernment

Kelly Ryan is in the final stages of her discernment to the Vocational Diaconate. St. Philip's is her sending parish. Her cohort has gone from four candidates to two. She has had five classes, finished 300 hours of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Duke Regional Hospital, received training from the Archdeacon and Bishop Sam. Her ministry placement was at St. Andrews (Haw River) and she is now on staff at St. Joseph's (Durham). Her last steps in the process are to go before the Commission on Ministry for the Diaconate and then go before the Standing Committee.

Before Kelly can continue with the discernment process, two thirds of the Vestry must support her as an ordinand. There was unanimous support for Kelly by the Vestry.

Kelly requested the church's prayers for the rest of the process, and God willing and the people consenting, invited the congregation to the ordination service on January 27th at 11am at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (Raleigh).

Roof renovation project final financial report

The last of the roof renovation project has been completed with with the installation of a protective covering over the stained glass window over the church breezeway door.

A summary of the finances:

- We had budgeted \$844,936 for the project.
- We had \$173,000 in parishioner contributions. We drew \$720,000 from the short-term investments, for a total of \$893,000 in income.
- Due to excellent management of the project by Liz Sappenfield, our actual cost was only \$645,000.
- This gives us \$241,000 to put back in our short-term investments.
- The Vestry was unanimous in its thanksgiving for Liz's management of the renovation project! As Ginny said, it could not have gone any better!

The Vestry had a few questions:

- Connie asked for an update on the slipped arch stone. Liz reported that the engineers were not concerned because there has not been any movement. It can be fixed in phase two, if necessary.
- Liz reminded the Vestry that the list of items to be considered for phase two of the renovation project was in her Junior Warden report. The recently formed committee will take that list into consideration. Liz reminded the Vestry that there should not be as much continuing damage since the new roof will help dry things out.

Vestry nominating committee

The nominating committee had its first meeting, has compiled a list of individuals to invite to prayerfully consider being on the slate. The committee will begin making contact with individuals on the list in December, with the desire to have the slate approved by the Vestry in January.

BRIEF UPDATES

Consent Agenda Questions

In her Rector's Report, Maryann asked for feedback on the consent agenda process.

- We asked if the Vestry package might be more approachable, if we put the reports in one package and the financials in another.
- Liz wants to ensure that Vestry members are reading the entirety of the Vestry Package.
- Maryann reminded the Vestry that it was their responsibility to read the whole package.

The Vestry filled in some blanks in the draft October Vestry minutes.

Liz addressed the question about what was happening with the unspent funds from the roof renovation project.

Convention update

The Vestry was informed that Maryann was elected to Diocesan council for a term of three years. Convention approved changes to the Diocesan bylaws, which will have a trickle down impact on our bylaws. There were approximately 425 people (clergy and lay) at Convention.

Outreach Committee

Shamioka is doing some necessary follow-up of questions from Maryann and will report back at the December Vestry meeting. Maryann will get back to the committee with a status update on the spiritual music project.

Social/Inreach Committee

The committee was asked to run the Epiphany Chili-Cook off, which will be on Saturday, January 6th. Sign-ups for the coffee hour hosting are going very well.

Liz asked how our collaboration with UMD for Christmas presents is going. Meghan is working on that.

Technology/REALM Committee

Adam pointed the Vestry to the committee's report in the Vestry package, and reminded the group that they are looking for someone to step into the lead technology role.

The Vestry went into **Executive Session**.

Meeting talking points for Epistle

1. Kelly Ryan is in the final stages of her three-year discernment of a call to become a vocational deacon. On behalf of St. Philip's, her sending parish, **the Vestry unanimously endorsed her candidacy**. God willing, and the people consenting, her ordination will be on January 27th at 11am at St. Michael's Episcopal in Raleigh.
2. The Vestry was thrilled about the final accounting of the roof renovation project. **We came in under budget and on time for this phase of the church renovation project**. We are deeply grateful to Liz Sappenfield for her leadership of the project!
3. Advent is commonly understood as a season of preparation and pondering. As we prepare for the next year of ministry at St. Philip's, **we invite all members of the parish to ponder how their time and talent could contribute to the leadership we need**. Stay tuned for opportunities!
4. At the Diocesan Convention, the week before Thanksgiving, one of the highlights was that **Maryann was elected to Diocesan Council**. The Council is commonly understood as the Vestry for the Bishop. Maryann will be a gift to the Diocese.
5. The vestry encourages you to take advantage of the many offerings for **Cultivating Quiet** this season. You can find them [insert here].

Book study - *How We Learn to Be Brave*

Maryann led a discussion on the final chapters of the book. The Vestry looked at a pieces of our history and discussed which of the decisions were brave. The parish will also be doing a study of the book during the Wednesday night Engage series this coming winter.

Adjournment

The meeting was brought to a close with a prayer by Maryann and adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca S. Hix
Clerk