

# St Philip's

episcopal church

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## December 18, 2023 Vestry Minutes

**Vestry members present:** Gail Albergo, Lowell Dargbeh, Leigh Egeghy, Erin Gasch, Rebecca Hix (Clerk), Sarah Johnson, Adam McClellan, Wes Newman, Shamielka Rhinehart, Liz Sappenfield (Junior Warden), and Connie Semans (Senior Warden) and Richard Williams.

**Clergy present:** The Rev. Maryann D. Younger

**Guests present:** Ginny Bowman (Treasurer)

**Call to order:** The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Episcopal Church convened on December 18, 2023 at 6:10pm at the home of The Rev. Maryann Younger, who presided over the meeting. Wes opened the meeting by praying the poem "For a Leader," by John O'Donohue.

### **Consent Agenda** (5 min.)

1. Minutes of the November vestry meeting
2. Treasurer's Report & Simplified Financial Report covering November
3. Rector's Report
4. Senior Warden's Report
5. Junior Warden's Report

Maryann welcomed the Vestry to her home. Sarah reminded the Clerk that she was absent last month and the minutes should reflect that.

***Connie moved that we approve the consent agenda. Gail seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.***

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Maryann shared three pieces of Good News**

1. Staffing: Through the hard work and diligence of David Shumate and Ginny Bowman, Maryann was able to offer the Rev. John Campbell a full-time, time certain, position as associate priest, starting January 1<sup>st</sup>. Gabe will continue to be compensated as he continues his healing. The Rev. Lisa Fischbeck is excited to return to her role as a priest associate, as is The Rev. Steve Pogoloff.
2. The Diocesan Standing Committee has approved Kelly Ryan for ordination to the vocational diaconate.
3. She has asked Rebecca Hix to serve as Senior Warden next year.

### **Update on the Homeless Services Center**

Maryann hopes the Vestry has seen the stories about the Durham City/County Joint Work session on the topic of the new Homeless Services Center. St. Philip's was acknowledged for visionary leadership. She is thankful to Durham CAN for getting it before the work session. Stay tuned for next steps.

### **Vestry nominating committee**

Connie reported that four people have agreed to stand for election to the Vestry. Four more people will need to be identified to have the slate of eight required by our by-laws.

## **BRIEF UPDATES**

### **2024 budget update**

Ginny informed the Vestry that a continuing resolution was needed to carry on 2023 budget, until a 2024 budget could be approved by the Vestry, in advance of the 2024 Annual Meeting.

*Rebecca moved that the Treasurer be authorized to continue church operations at the level of the 2023 budget until the 2024 budget is approved. Shamioka seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.*

### **Outreach Committee update**

Shamioka reached out to Kirk Royal about a budget request from the LGBT group for \$500 and a budget request for the Duke Episcopal Center for \$500. Shamioka was encouraged to reach out to Melissa Mills as the current contact for the Duke Episcopal Center. The Outreach committee recommended funding both requests.

### **Social/Inreach committee update**

Rebecca reminded the Vestry of the Epiphany Chili-cook off and asked for help.

### **Technology/REALM committee update**

Connie shared that the work to clean up the database continues.

### **The Trees**

The Rev. Philip Bass, Associate Rector of the Church of the Nativity in Raleigh, was encouraged by Bishop Sam to talk with Maryann about using The Trees to host a new church plant for individuals that have been diminished by the Church. Maryann approved having a weekly, Sunday night service that will include a Eucharist with rotating clergy, probably an ecumenical group, and dinner afterwards. The soft launch is Lent 1 (February 17<sup>th</sup>). They will test the model for a year. It will be called The Beloved Community at The Trees.

The Vestry was reminded that the first Tuesday of every month is a quiet day at The Trees.

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

1. The Vestry invites you to join us in ministry! We need four new Vestry members to replace those rotating off. Would you prayerfully consider running for election? Want to be on the slate? Have questions? Please reach out to Connie Semans, Senior Warden
2. It has become an Epiphany tradition to gather for a Chili-cook off and then worship together. Do you have an award-winning chili to enter? Do you want to participate in the People's Choice award? Do you want to enjoy some festivities? Join us on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.
3. In practicing their fiduciary responsibility, the Vestry approved continuing the 2023 budget levels into 2024, when a new budget is approved by the Vestry.

4. The Vestry hopes you saw the fantastic coverage about the joint city/county meeting to explore a new Homeless Services Center. Our very own Rev. Maryann Younger reminded the greater Durham community that St. Philip's believes in the dignity of everyone.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was brought to a close with a prayer by Maryann and adjourned at 7:08pm. The Vestry then enjoyed a festive gathering.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca S. Hix  
Clerk