

St. Helena's Episcopal Church and School

Vestry Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023

Vestry Present: Jennifer Shelby, Sarah Davis, Tommy Mathews, Amy Purcell, Gary Frashier, Adam Groenhuyzen, Todd Calder, Perri Rosheger, Steve Drukker, Beth Adam, Cindy Glick, Ted Geer

Clergy: The Rev. Jamie George

Staff/Treasurer: Pam Boutte, Bob Myer

Call to Order: 6:01PM

Devotional: Steve shared his devotional and an opening prayer. The devotional centered around “the humanness of Christ”, and he shared 2 stories from the Gospels in which Jesus was walking. The first was when Jesus and His disciples were walking in a field, and picked some grain, and the second was when Jesus was walking through a crowd, and a woman touched His garment. Then Steve shared a favorite Bible verse of his, Ephesians 2:10: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would **walk** in them”.

Sub-Committee Meetings: Sub-committee meetings occurred, with report-outs to follow below.

Clergy Time:

- Mo. Jamie updated the Vestry concerning her continuing education plans, in that she is now looking into alternatives to the planned Holy Land pilgrimage that was to take place in 2024.
- Mo. Jamie noted that although we are in a time of transition and some uncertainty, she reminded the Vestry that “we have a very good God”.

Senior Warden's Time:

- Tommy had asked Bob to present a stewardship update. Bob shared a table outlining the pledges received by mid-November, from 2020 to present. Comparing 11/2022 with 11/2023, there are 29 less pledges, amounting to about \$227K less than last year. After questions and discussion, it was agreed that a letter will be going out to those who have pledged in the past and have not yet pledged this year, accompanied by phone calls to those individuals by members of the Vestry.

- Bob shared some initial thoughts and insight concerning the 2024 budget. Discussion amongst the Vestry centered around pledges not yet received, providing our new Rector with a realistic budget, what parts of our current budget could be reduced, as well as other options were presented. The 2024 budget will be finalized at the December Vestry meeting.
- Tommy updated the Vestry on the search process, noting that interviews are happening, and that it takes time to do this right. He also reminded the Vestry that the search process is a process prescribed by the Diocese.
- Tommy noted that we have 4 out-going Vestry members, and we need to consider candidates for 2024. Tommy asked that the Vestry provide him with names of possible candidates prior to the December Vestry meeting.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Administration:

- Adam led a discussion about the October financials, with Pam and Bob addressing the questions from the Vestry. After a motion from Steve, and a second from Todd, the October financials were adopted.
- Adam then asked for any questions or clarifications concerning the minutes from our last meeting, and after a motion from Cindy, and a second from Amy, the minutes were approved.

Buildings and Grounds:

- Todd informed the Vestry that obtaining a new stove for the Parish Hall kitchen is moving forward.
- Todd noted that the railing on the stairs to Wendler Hall needs repair, and he is also looking into a permanent solution for our ice-making machines.
- Both Todd and Tommy noted that Bishop Folts has been asked to look into the process of replacing the organ in the Historic Sanctuary.

Mission:

- Sarah noted that the Dinners for 8 are continuing to go well, and that the Decades Dinner was a great success, with money raised for Transformation House.
- Sarah reminded the Vestry that our outreach project Angel Tree, as well as the Walk in Bethlehem, occur in early December.
- Sarah informed the Vestry that Dawn is organizing Prayer Partners for our youth.

St . Helena's School:

- Tommy shared that enrollment is now at 55 students, and that the School is actively fundraising this month, called "Journey for Excellence Annual Give". Tommy handed out information about this fundraiser to each of the Vestry members.
- Tommy noted that in December we will need to adopt the School's budget.
- Tommy shared that currently 5 applicants have been received for School Director.

Executive Session:

After Mo. Jamie, Pam, and Bob were excused, an Executive Session was held.

Post Executive Session:

By consensus, the Vestry supported recognizing the efforts of the staff and Mo. Jamie during this period of transition, including consideration of a year end bonus, to be recommended by the Senior Warden.

Adjourn: After a closing prayer by Cindy, and with no further discussion, the Vestry adjourned at 7:56 PM.