

Vestry Zoom Meeting January 12, 2021.

After a social half hour, the meeting convened at 6:30p.m. Kurt+ led a prayer for members and families. He read a meditation by Diana Butler Bass about our sense of sacred spaces and perceptions of desecration. Recent events were compared to “Lamentations” and Ms.Bass noted that the Capitol building is a sacred space which Americans endow with meaning, as a space for becoming a nation of justice.

Melissa reported that there was no plate offering in December but currently our pledge offerings are up. Currently pledges are at \$250,000 rather than previously budgeted \$300,000. Amounts for 2020 or 2021 totals will be sorted. Expense overages were linked to the painting expenses. In the February meeting the vestry will have to authorize final payment for the new flooring, Pension expenses were covered in December. Questions about responsibilities need to be addressed between the accountant, her assistant and the parish administrator.

Calculations for our maximum annual draw of 3.5 per cent are made from a 12 quarter average balance in the Endowment. The Endowment funds are for program expenses while the Trust is to be used for maintenance expenses. John said we can be flexible in these non normal times. Barbara suggested establishing a third fund for vestry discretionary spending that could receive donations. The percentage of the draw can be changed; money can be moved from the money market investment category to our operating fund. There is a \$50,000 line of credit. The CARE’s act provided funds this year. Members suggested the use of money from our funds be discussed at the vestry retreat in February. There was a discussion about changing the percentage of the draw. We have not invaded the principal so far, and the safety of that principal is a consideration for vestry and the trustees.

Two versions of the budget were presented, one for normal times and the other for a continued Covid19 closure necessity. Pledges are reduced and we can assume expenses will also be reduced. Even so the 2021 budget shows a loss of \$34,000. Expenses may have to be further reduced. Russ complemented Melissa on this double duty. Kristy moved we accept the

reduced second version of the budget with removal of the CARE's act funds. Russ seconded and all voted in favor.

Kristin moved that the minutes from our December meeting be accepted, David seconded. All voted aye.

Kristin moved that the application for the second PPP loan be submitted. Christopher seconded and all voted aye.

The internet service to the church is not adequate to our demand with all the on line services and need for increased speed and bandwidth. Selma researched an upgrade which can be contracted monthly. It will be an increase of \$48.97 per month. The Preschool is in favor of the upgrade. Kristin moved to accept the upgrade with a year's contract and Marshall seconded. All were in favor.

A yearlong calendar is planned to be presented at the annual meeting which will include liturgical services, ongoing discussion groups, special events, vestry meetings, sub-committee meetings, board of trustees and FFA meetings. Newcomer's events can be added. This calendar can be emailed to all households, and used at the vestry retreat. The wardens will meet to finalize the email. The next vestry meeting will be February 9, and the vestry retreat will be February 16, with morning and afternoon 2 hour Zoom sessions. Kristy stated that the Leadership Committee will now meet 4 times a year.

The followings plans for the annual meeting have been laid. A card will go out this week to invite all of the parish to attend by Zoom on January 31. Morning Prayer will begin the meeting followed by introductions of vestry candidates and delegates to convention, then elections. Ten minute small break out groups will follow. Two subjects were recommended for discussion: 1. Where have you seen God In this difficult time? And 2. What does 'love thy neighbor' mean to you, locally, nationally, and at St. Paul's? Vestry persons and/or the tag team members could attend groups to facilitate and report. Reconvening altogether by Zoom, a governance review, and a communications review will be presented, followed by more ten minute small group

meetings. Then the calendar for the year will be shared, and ending the meeting with thanks to all. A two hour total time frame is suggested.

A document was shared on screen outlining the duties of the Jr. Warden, who is chosen by the vestry each year. Christopher suggested polling the vestry for candidates. Candidates may include the new vestry members. Candidates' names should be entered before Feb. 4. The choice will be made by an election February 9. The Rector chooses the Senior Warden. Kristy Muday has agreed to serve as Senior Warden for 2021.

FFA reported 4 bids have been received for demolition of the houses. A review of the bids should be held prior to the annual meeting. Included in the review process should be John, Chris Zarek, Kristy and Barbara. All information on the houses should be shared at the annual meeting.

Will Grua and Erin Saunders have conducted an audit of the parish. Their report will be submitted to the diocesan office. This document should be signed by the vestry.

The report of the clergy review should also be recorded in the minutes.

The Social Committee reported that the card inviting the parish to the annual meeting includes a return postcard addressed to the church on which each parishioner may record his/her preferred means of communication. The greeting on the card reads "Begin the Year with God".

Herman reported the pantry is serving fewer customers since bagging the groceries, handing them out to individuals, and not hosting gatherings. He requested permission to post signs about the Saturday pantry. Additional suggestions were to contact other parishes with information and to search for some sandwich boards stored at the church. Neighborhood schools could also be notified, as well as Community Boards. Herman said he would report to Lori and get back to the vestry.

Kurt expressed thanks to outgoing vestry members. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.