

## Vestry Zoom Meeting, January 12, 2022

The meeting came to order at 6:30 pm.

Present at the meeting were Kurt Weisner, rector; Kristy Muday, sr. warden; Lori Morris, jr. warden; Melissa Wank, treasurer; Sarabeth Clevenger, clerk; and vestry members: Will Grua, Peggy McCray, David Reed, Dianne Franz, Danielle Lankford, Phil Baese, Russell Pack and Herman Beck. Kelly Smith, candidate for vestry 2022 was present. A neighbor, Cindy Cromer, also attended. She is interested in our plans for the two houses, as she has bought, renovated, and rented out many structures in our neighborhood.

Melissa began with the finances, summarizing activity in 2021. Although more income than what was projected came in, expenses exceeded the budget by over \$60,000. Looking forward, by December 19, 2021, \$221,000 had been pledged for 2022. The budget deficit which this year was covered by an extra withdrawal from the endowment, will likely be larger next year. We also need to save money for the clergy transition fund and the upcoming sabbatical expenses, and also the youth mission trip. It is possible that the plate income will continue to be up, but pledges are down. Herman questioned the money budgeted for music versus the small amount apportioned to the youth ministry.

There is uncertainty in this budget which will be presented at the annual meeting on Feb. 6, 2022. The vestry will have to deal with these unsustainable numbers at the retreat. Currently pledges for 2022 were up to \$235,000, and both endowment and trust have grown substantially over last year. Salary increases must be accounted for. When Charles Black leaves, the music budget will be affected. The Diocesan assessment has been reduced to \$44,000 according to our reduced program spending in 2021. Kurt+ cautioned against assuming we can continue to draw more than 3.5% out of the endowment to cover expenses. Peggy questioned the increased amount allocated to fees. Will advocated separating out an account for the sabbatical.

Expenses will have to be prioritized and new sources of revenue found. The vestry is not comfortable with the deficit budget, but Peggy moved that it be accepted, and Lori seconded. All voted aye. Phil advocated that the challenge be presented positively at the annual meeting.

The FFA met and considered alternative plans for the houses that are north of our property. Slow movement on the demolition and new parking lot (original) plan, the change in property values, and our changed financial position make this necessary. We need cost analysis on some alternatives:

1. Do nothing, 2. Tear down one house, renovate the other, 3. Sell the houses.

A short discussion of the advantages of our long term renter, the Preschool ensued. Kurt+ and Russ agreed that Rhonda Dossett's work, and Shannons Dossett's apprenticeship are showing good results in the prosperity of the Preschool. We should be sensitive to their needs in our renovations.

Kurt+ introduced reflection questions.

First, what was your time of most involvement and motivation at St. Paul's? Phil recalled the time when he and his family joined St. Paul's. It was undergoing remodeling and was meeting in the Salt Lake Arts Academy. There were many vibrant, intergenerational activities. David recalled the meaningful interactions of Eucharistic ministers and recipients. Lori remembered dinners together, baseball game attendance, and the art show that raised money for the pantry.

Present events found to be meaningful include outdoor services for congregants and youth, Zoom services and streaming services. Kristy is glad to remember how the vestry worked together to make these events possible.

Second, what have we lost in the last two years at St. Paul's? David misses intergenerational events. Kristy missed newcomers meetings and conversations with them at church.

Third, what do we value about our church? Phil said how welcoming we are. Peggy said how we care for each other, and the food pantry outreach.

Fourth, what do we need to pay attention to at St. Paul's going forward? Lori said we are not the same, but have changed. From our new and different place, we have to determine how to do church, community and showing our values. One way is Ashes-to-go. Dianne said we need to contact people whom we have not seen. Herman affirmed that we need to show love, care and understanding to them. Kristi said she has nostalgia for small problems of the past, but advocated that even though times are difficult, this is Church Now! Will has enormous confidence in younger generations making whatever Church should be Now, happen. David emphasized the importance of the music program at St. Paul's. We should look where life is continuing to unfold.

Kurt+ asked for volunteer delegates to Diocesan Convention, scheduled April 29-30, 2022.

Kurt+ complemented all for hard work this year. He encouraged us by saying, "We are all afraid - let God help with his grace." Russ thanked Kurt+ for leadership in a challenging time. Kurt+ closed with his traditional benediction, at 9 o'clock, pm.