

VESTRY ZOOM MEETING, September 14, 2021

- The meeting opened with prayer at 6:30 PM. Present were Dianne Franz, David Reed, Marshall Wright, Peggy McCray, Will Grua, Phil Baese, Meg Brady, Russ Pack, Lori Morris, Danielle Lankford and Herman Beck, vestry members; also Kurt Wiesner, rector; Ashley Gurling, seminarian doing field placement at St. Paul's; Kristy Muday, senior warden; Melissa Wank, treasurer; and Sarabeth Clevenger, clerk. Kurt+ prayed that the Spirit would be with us in our struggles with Covid, with fear, for guidance and safety and for recovery and care.
- Kurt+ brought up his "refresher leave" which he is entitled to, which will be 3 months starting in June, 2023. This implies his commitment to St. Paul's at least through 2025. Though he will apply for a grant, he will be paid by the parish during the leave. He plans to use Yellowstone as a theme to reflect on the faith journey. Marshall asked about guidelines from the diocese for St. Paul's during this period. David suggested the expense be a line item in the budget. Russ suggested the clergy transition fund may be implemented. The diocese will help with supply priests. We will have a new bishop by then. The vestry should form a committee to guide the congregation through this period.

Melissa reported that she has more time to be St. Paul's treasurer since she has changed jobs. The records will soon all come out of Quick Books,

which should make the reports easier. There were some questions about delayed deposits for August, higher expenses than last year at this time, consistency in recording pledges, and linking issues, reclassifying expenses. Melissa promised to address all these and send the vestry a cleaned up report. She also asked about paying down our line of credit debt to make it available again in full. This LOC was used last year to pay a \$20,000 deposit to the painter. Will made a motion to ask the trustees to use the Trust fund to pay this debt. Kristy seconded. After discussion all voted aye. Kurt+ asked if it would help with regular reporting if the vestry went back to counting money after Sunday Services. Herman and Kristy agreed this should be implemented. Should there be a sign up sheet?

A discussion was held about services going forward. Most of the vestry is hesitant to meet inside. Cold weather may postpone outdoor services to the warmer afternoon time. More information about renting a heated tent is needed. All ministries are conducted by vaccinated persons. Dianne and Meg raised a question about having a “vaccinated only” indoor service. Kurt+ and Ashley are reluctant to limit any service to only the vaccinated. Kurt+ suggested more and smaller services. The bishop wants to wait until all can be vaccinated. Kristy and Danielle advocated solutions that do not divide us. All agreed it is a difficult problem, and Marshall advocated

keeping the discussion going, possibly at the upcoming All-Parish Meeting.

There was a discussion about including acolytes in services, possibly utilizing siblings to avoid extra contagion. We do have readers at services but it is not possible to have lay eucharistic ministers at this time.

David brought up the housing issue. The FFA met and made corrections to the schematics. It is necessary to meet with a subcommittee on land use from the Community Council. There was no word on when or how.

Christmas will again feature a pre-recorded concert. There will be restricted small in person services. Kurt+ encouraged small groups to meet on zoom. In person services require masks, social distancing and ventilation.

Stewardship met and filmed a video on September 14.

Dianne asked for help on the monthly cards. She would like ideas. Could we focus on ministries and small groups?

Meg reported that Selma, our Parish Administrator, says only 14% of households actually read the newsletter. This is a lot of work, is it worth it?

Marshall asked for comparative numbers, and Meg assured him ours are low. A discussion followed with a number of suggestions: dropping the newsletter from two per week, to just one; limiting the mailing list to those that are active; having shorter content; make the top entry look different

every week; have a subject line of the biggest news of the week; include reminders about meetings; write an article on our Covid dilemma,

Kristy closed the meeting with a prayer asking the Spirit to lead us all.

It was after 9PM.

The Stewardship committee stayed later.