

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
VESTRY MEETING
Saturday, January 26, 2019

Vestry Members Present: Don Blankenship, Jan Harris, Sheldon Smith, Jack Boyne, Ed Sharp, Jamey Bass, Michael Springston, Van Giersch, Caryn Meade, Kevin Le Count, DuKe Fentress

Absent: Maggie Fyfe

Clergy Present: The Rev. Canon Patricia Grace, The Rev. Dr. Cheryl McFadden

The meeting Called to Order by Rev. Pat Grace at 3:30 PM

Approval of the Minutes: There were no minutes presented for approval. The minutes of the January 3rd meeting will be approved via email.

Election of 2019 Wardens

Moved by Duke Fentress and seconded by Jamey Bass, to elect Don Blankenship and Senior Warden for 2019, upon the recommendation of the Interim Rector. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Van Giersch and seconded by Jack Boyne to elect Jan Harris as the junior warden for 2019 upon the recommendation of the Interim Rector. Motion carried unanimously. The vestry offered sincere thanks and praise to Sheldon Smith for his work as Junior Warden in 2018.

Election of the registrar

Moved by Kevin Le Count and seconded by Jan Harris to elect Cle Newsom as registrar for 2019 upon the recommendation of the Interim Rector. Motion carried unanimously. The vestry noted its appreciation and thanks to Jeff Whitaker for his work as registrar in past years.

Election of the Treasurer

The vestry discussed, again, the issue of term limits for positions other than vestry members and wardens. It was generally agreed that rotating leadership in the position of Treasurer would be helpful and also a benefit to the person who serves in that role. The bylaws also specify that an Assistant Treasurer is permissible and Good Shepherd has included that position in the past. It was the general consensus that the vestry would pursue recruiting and electing a new Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer. The Interim rector was asked to develop a newsletter article about these volunteer opportunities and the expectations and skills required to fill them. Caryl Fuller, our current Treasurer, would remain in that position to assist in transitioning to the new leadership. The vestry did not at this time specify the term limit for the new leadership positions, but felt strongly that the Assistant Treasurer should be groomed to take the Treasurer position when those terms, when specified, ended.

Usher in Charge

Thanks and praise was offered to all current and past vestry members for their work in recruiting and organizing ushers for our services. There was a general sense, however, that we would benefit from developing an Ushers' Guild and recruiting a lead usher who would take responsibility for recruiting, training and communicating with ushers. Moved by Ed Sharp and seconded by Van Giersch to move forward on creating this position and the Guild. Motion carried unanimously.

Eagle Scout project

Jan Harris presented a proposal for an Eagle Scout project (see written report) to be completed by parish member, Henry Jackson. Jan clarified that the work that the scout will do will not interfere or modify our landscaping services contract, but will actually assist us in projects that the parish would usually be responsible for. This project takes the place of the annual parish "spring cleaning." Paul Henry will supervise the pruning to be done. Green Thumb volunteers and other scouts will help Henry with the project. Don Blankenship will also be part of this project and will assist in coordinating and supervising the work. Henry will be responsible for raising all the funds to accomplish the plan. With the agreement that the benches discussed in the proposal would be limited to the outside area, it was moved by Kevin LeCount and seconded by Jan Harris to approve this proposal. Motion carried unanimously.

2019 Budget issues

A lengthy discussion was held concerning the provisional 2019 budget, approved at the January 3rd meeting. Jamey Bass presented information (see written report) that advised the vestry that if we proceeded with plans as put forward in that budget, we would deplete the unrestricted amount available in the Endowment Trust. The vestry agreed that this would not be a prudent course of action. The vestry discussed these elements of a potential path forward:

- Limit the draw from the Trust for 2019 to \$75,000. This would mean that we would need to address a deficit of \$151,641 (based on figures available to us today...note: we are in need of a final 2018 financial report to clarify and confirm these figures). That deficit includes the amount of the deficit projected by the provisional budget, plus the difference in the amount of the Endowment draw we proposed to take, plus the \$15,000 we were hoping to draw from the Trust for the new rector's moving and transition expenses. We also need to consider the \$40,000 we hoped to "borrow" from the Trust for the Stormwater project, while we wait to be reimbursed by the grantors of this project. There is some new information about this project that may make it unnecessary for us to borrow these funds, but we still need to consider them.
- Clarify and confirm year-end figures and how the final 2018 deficit will be covered.
- Consider hosting a parish-wide meeting to inform the parish about the situation, as well as talk about the future and our vision for the parish; as well as discuss giving opportunities. There was not consensus about the focus and purpose of this meeting, so this issue needs further discussion and clarification.

- Make the budget information more relatable and concrete. Help the parish understand the issues in language that is less about accounting and more examples of what things cost, what resources we have to work with, what we are missing and needing more of.
- Consider doing an every member canvas to share information and also to ask for additional funds.
- Discuss our desire to move forward with a campaign to raise new monies for a full-time youth minister from special donors who would agree to support this program for three years. Consider going to the EYC parents and asking them to be the first givers, “seed money” for this initiative.

The vestry took a break to work through several other issues before returning to the budget conversation and final decisions.

Parish-wide Retreat

The Rev. Cheryl McFadden reported that there has been growing interest in organizing a parish-wide retreat. She presented some research information she has gathered on a potential event that would occur at the Trinity Center over Labor Day in 2019. The cost would be covered by registration fees; there would be some need to find money for scholarships. The thinking was that this should coincide nicely with the arrival of the new rector and provide an opportunity for folks to get to know him or her and vice versa in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Folks with houses or other lodging near there could attend at a different rate for registration. (A day rate needs to be clarified). The plan would be to form an organizing committee of lay leaders and rely on the many folks with expertise in these kinds of activities to make sure it is a success. Moved by Ed Sharp and seconded by Jamey Bass to proceed with the plans for this event. The motion was enthusiastically approved unanimously.

Stormwater Project