

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
VESTRY ZOOM MEETING
Monday, December 21, 2020

Vestry Members Present: Jack Boyne, Jan Harris, Christie Barbee, Jamey Bass, Maggie Fyfe, Anna Howard, Caryn Meade, Chas Sharp, Michael Springston, Sheldon Smith, Rob Zucker, Cle Newsom-Registrar.

Absent: None

Clergy and Staff Present: Rev. Joyce C. Cunningham
Rev. Brooks Graebner

Absent: The Rev. Imogen Rhodenhiser

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Brooks Graebner at 6:05pm.

I. Opening Prayer:

The meeting opened with a moment of silence and then Rev. Brooks led us in prayer.

II. Approval of the August Minutes

A motion was made by Anna Howard to approve the November minutes and the December agenda. Seconded by Jan Harris. Motion carried.

III. Priest-in-Charge (Written report attached and made a part of these minutes)

Rev. Brooks referenced his report for the two proposed items that needed discussion with the Vestry. Item 1 proposed that the filming of the in-person services be moved from Thursdays to Wednesdays. Item 2 proposed to offer a Sunday morning adult class at 10am over Zoom, starting on January 17. Both items were discussed and agreed upon. No motion was necessary.

Rev. Brooks also announced that our Parish Administrator, Kirk Royal, would be taking a leave of absence starting Dec. 22. His core tasks are being re-assigned to clergy and other staff, and possibly to some parishioners.

IV. Associate Rector's Report (Written report attached and made a part of these minutes)

Rev. Joyce's report shows the many meetings she attended during November. She had no other updates to report.

V. Senior Warden Report (Written report attached and made a part of these minutes)

Jack announced the contract with the Campbell University Law School for the spring semester had been signed. The terms will be the same as the fall semester agreement.

As of this meeting, the following candidates have been nominated for the upcoming 4 open positions on the Vestry. They are:

John Beck
Esther Hall
Susan Jackson
Martin Taylor
Jennifer Tlusty

Online nominations will be open until December 31, 2020.

The Vestry tentatively plans to meet on Monday, January 11, 2021 to elect the new members of the Vestry. This will be a one-topic meeting only. The regular Vestry meeting will be Monday, January 18, 2021.

VI. Junior Warden Report (Written report attached and made a part of these minutes)

Jan reported that the ramp railings have been installed. She mentioned again that a Vestry volunteer is needed to spearhead the Emergency Operating Plan. Other details can be found in her written report.

VII. Treasurer's Report (Written report attached and made a part of these minutes)

Jamey Bass reported that our pledged gifts rebounded in November from October. Overall, our records show the church is ahead of budget by about \$21,000 at the end of November. However, this amount does not include the anticipated forgiveness of the \$83,000 Paycheck Protection Program. It is unclear whether the forgiveness from the US government will occur in 2020 or 2021. Through November, our actual expenses exceed our actual revenue by \$20,167.61.

VIII. Preliminary 2021 Budget (Written report attached and made a part of these minutes)

The Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed 2021 budget presented by Caryl Fuller. The preliminary budget includes a \$101,020 shortfall. The final budget will be approved in the January 2021 Vestry meeting after adjustments are made.

Rev. Brooks noted this year, unlike prior years; it is difficult to craft a yearly budget with so many unknowns. He suggested we budget on a quarterly basis. A continuing resolution can be made to maintain the 2020 salaries during the first

quarter of 2021. This continuing resolution can be voted on at the January 2021 Vestry meeting. Jack suggested a small task force be appointed to review the budget with a focus on first quarter 2021.

A question arose as to the calculation of the Diocese contribution. Jamey reported that for 2021, the monthly contribution is based on 10.65% of the budget.

IX. Stewardship Update (Written report attached and made a part of these minutes)

Christie Barbee, Vestry liaison for the Stewardship committee, feels many parishioners do not feel a part of the CGS now due to the COVID lockdown. There are approximately 70 parishioners with no email addresses. Some members may feel they are “not getting anything for their money” and therefore, we need to assure them that CGS will be there after the pandemic. Last year, we had the excitement of having new clergy but this year, we have separation of the church from its members due to no in-person meetings. Anna stated the Sure Foundation was a great success because it was targeted to specific needs.

At this time our pledges for 2021 are lagging behind 2020 pledges. As of December 20, we have received 127 pledges totaling \$471,592. At the same time a year ago, we had 155 pledges totaling \$578,000. Jan suggested the Vestry, along with members of the Stewardship committee, make calls to parishioners. Christie reported that emails have been sent to the parishioners who pledged last year, but have not yet done so in 2020.

Maggie Fyfe suggested we share more numbers in our newsletters, or elsewhere. It might be useful to explain what it costs to keep a church running when no one is actually there. Some members may think our expenses are nominal because of the lack of in-person services. Jan noted the utility bills might show a different story.

Rev. Brooks suggested all should be discussed at the Annual Meeting. The Vestry agreed. Jack further noted that many of the pledges were consistent with last year’s, but some were lower due to unemployment or job insecurity.

X. Vestry Nominations/Election Process

As stated earlier, the Vestry plans to hold a special meeting on Jan. 11 at 6:00pm to elect the new members of the Vestry. Jack and Jan will meet to plan the process for that evening. Caryn asked if we could get photos of the candidates.

XI. Annual Meeting/Reports/Process (Written report attached and made a part of these minutes)

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 10:00am via Zoom. We will upgrade our Zoom subscription to allow for a webinar format for a month.

Anna volunteered to monitor the Chat feature for questions. Rev. Brooks would like to have a practice session to make sure all the variables are set up properly.

All annual reports are due by December 31, 2020. They should be submitted to Kirk's email address and Rev. Joyce will monitor this mailbox.

XII. Associate Rector Housing Allowance Approval

Rev. Joyce asked the Vestry to approve her housing allowance for 2021 for tax purposes. The Vestry agreed and vote passed by acclamation.

XIII. Closing Prayer

Rev. Joyce led the group in our closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Cle E. Newsom

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Registrar