

**THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**  
**VESTRY ZOOM MEETING**  
**Monday, September 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:** Kevin LeCount (illness)

**Clergy and Staff Present:** The Rev. Imogen Rhodenhiser  
Rev. Joyce C. Cunningham

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Imogen Rhodenhiser at 6:05pm.

**I. Opening Prayer:**

Rev. Joyce read a prayer by Maya Angelou from Celebrations, Rituals of Peace and Prayer.

**II. Approval of the August Minutes**

A motion was made by Anna Howard to approve the August minutes. Seconded by Jan Harris. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jan to approve the meeting Agenda. Seconded by Christie Barbee. Motion carried.

**III. Rector's Report (Verbal)**

Rev. Imogen stated she had spent significant time learning and executing some of the tasks involved in our online worship service. Her parental leave will likely take place beginning in late November.

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

Rev. Joyce noted she is pleased with the Christian Formation group and invited others to join the next meeting. Rev. Imogen solicited feedback from the Vestry members as to who might have heard from parishioners. Jan asked if there was a link for the Christian Formation meeting and was referred to the last newsletter.

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

Jack reviewed the highlights of his report.

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

Jan noted that she hopes to present a draft of the Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Plan for the October or November Vestry meeting. She mentioned that since she will be rolling off the Vestry this term, someone else would need to pick up this responsibility. Bobby Gregory will be replacing the broken railings going up to the church, as they are currently out of compliance. The stained glass window at the front porch has been repaired. Dwayne Holloway reported to Jan that the fabric for the reupholstering of the furniture in the first floor Gathering Room would be ordered this week. The painting should be completed in mid-October.

Jan asked that budget items be sent to Jan by the end of day on Friday, September 25. Afterwards, she will compile the list and send to Caryl Fuller.

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

Jamey Bass stated there will be a planning meeting with the Trust members so that a plan can be developed to retire the loan on the Duncan-Giersch Parish Life Center within the next 5 ½ years. The plan will be presented to the Vestry in our October meeting.

**VIII. Online/In-Person Worship**

Rev. Imogen stated that we are holding 3 services now and asked if we still need that many. Phase 2 will be implemented in early October that will allow indoor worship capped at 25 people. Our initial thought was that we would transition from outdoor to indoor services, which would be held at 8am, 10am and 12pm. There is a re-opening committee meeting this Wednesday night at 7pm. Caryn Meade asked to attend. Anna Howard asked if the clergy were experiencing any burnout. Rev. Imogen said moving the current 5pm service to noon will help. Rev. Joyce said they had talked about it, but are practicing "self care".

Rev. Imogen opened the discussion of events that will occur during her leave of absence. Advent will have in-person worship services. However, we will not have an in-person Christmas Eve service as too many people will want to come, and we would only be able to accept a small number. Instead, we will have a pre-recorded worship service. Other ideas being considered are 9:00am and 1:00pm in-person services on Christmas Eve; perhaps with a string quartet, organ music, and prayer stations. We may ask individuals to bring a candle. During Advent, we may add some Saturday services. For the Sunday following Christmas Day, we will offer online Carols. All of this would be contingent on the current COVID=10 situation.

Caryn asked about how or if we could decorate the Christmas tree. Rev. Imogen is open to suggestions. Should we decorate other areas in the sanctuary or just have a tree? She suggested we consider decorating the tree with one ornament at a time, with parishioners circling through. We should decorate early. Christie Barbee said the more decorations the better, especially as it would enhance our online worship

services. Perhaps poinsettias could be used in addition to a big tree. Rev. Imogen agrees and thinks we can afford it since we have been able to cut other expenses throughout the year.

Jack encouraged us to give it more thought, and to consider what we might do for the St. Nicholas Tree. Anna suggested we might use "Sign Up Genius" so parishioners could pick a star virtually. Jan suggested we consider donations to Warmth for Wake too. Christie suggested we form an Advent Committee to handle the arrangements and ideas. Rev. Imogen said she and Rev. Joyce will be meeting this week and will consider this idea and any others presented.

#### **IX. Vestry Committee Reports**

The Communication Committee and Pastoral Care Committee reports are attached to these minutes. Caryn stated the Worship and Re-Opening Committee had met and developed a plan to receive communion during our outside services. Christie mentioned a recent article about the mental health impact during the coronavirus, especially with the 18-34 age group. Lynn Wiss is going to talk to Terrell Lloyd about gathering the college students and other young people to talk about their feeling. Isolation from other young people is difficult.

Jack invited members of currently non-active committees to join other active committees, such as Stewardship, Building & Grounds, Outreach, and Communications. If your committee has not been active, it is also a good time to get together and see what is on everyone's minds. He encouraged re-assigning yourself as previously mentioned if you have the energy and time to give.

#### **X. Partnership Updates-CLS, RBC, RMC, Growing Together Preschool**

The Raleigh Boy Choir contract is almost ready. The Preschool is using the outdoor playground at Christ Church during the pandemic. We are storing some of their materials in our building. The Raleigh Mennonite Church contract has been drafted thanks to Will Cherry.

#### **XI. Parish Call/Phone Tree**

Christie reported that her committee is reaching out to parishioners and asking if they have access to the online worship services, and verifying their contact information or if missing, obtaining accurate information. Jack asked fellow Vestry members to contact Christie if they could volunteer to make some of the phone calls.

Anna Howard is working to establish a phone tree, and at the same time gather information on how parishioners want to be contacted with any news from CGS (text/email/phone). She has prepared a survey that could be mailed or emailed when authorization is given. (attached to these minutes)

Christie suggested the reservation sheets for the in-person worship services be kept for at least 3 weeks for contact tracing. Rev. Imogen noted Kirk Royal keeps the sheets for count purposes.

## **XII. Transition Planning/2021 Vestry Nominations**

Rev. Imogen has been in communication with Canon Catherine Massey from the Diocese of NC office regarding obtaining a “Priest in Charge” during Rev. Imogen’s maternity leave. A “Priest in Charge” is here to make sure the “train runs on time” but not to make any substantial changes. This person would execute the plans that have already been made. For example, the Vestry would continue to make decisions and the Finance Committee would do the same. The Priest in Charge would be a part-time position, working on Sundays and 2 week days. Rev. Joyce will work fulltime during Rev. Imogen’s three-month leave, tentatively scheduled to begin in late November.

Rev. Imogen was excited to announce that Rev. Joyce has agreed to stay on permanently as our Associate Rector. Once Rev. Imogen returns from her maternity leave, Rev. Joyce will return to a  $\frac{3}{4}$  schedule.

Jack reminded the Vestry that the Diocese has a process in place if we are not able to have an annual meeting to elect new member. We have 4 members rolling off; Jack, Jan, Kevin LeCount and Sheldon Smith. We could keep the openings vacant, or appoint our own new members. It was suggested that the outgoing members start looking for replacement candidates. Rev. Imogen noted that no proxies are allowed, so we may have an annual meeting with proper coronavirus preparations. Jan suggested we start seeking candidates through the newsletter.

## **XIII. Closing Prayer**

Before the closing prayer, Rev. Imogen updated the Vestry on Kevin’s health. She asked for continuing prayers for him and our closing prayer centered on his wellbeing.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cle E. Newsom*

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Registrar