

APPROVED

MINUTES

Vestry Meeting –Monday, February 5, 2018 - 7:00 PM

Present: Fr. Richard, John Grant, Diane Nichols, Susan Howland, Nancy Waugh, Lynn Garland, Tamsin Lucey, Rose Reith, Lana Pieczynski, Peg Nelson

Absent with regrets: Lorraine Brumskine

Fr. Richard opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with prayer.

Bible Study – Mark 9:2-9

New vestry member Lana Pieczynski was greeted and welcomed.

Business

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the revised minutes of the January 2018 vestry meeting.

There being no necessary discussion on the Treasurer's report, a motion to accept it was made, seconded and approved.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to appoint Lynn Garland, as chair, Josh Spooner and John Grant to the Audit Committee.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to again appoint Lana Pieczynski, Josh Spooner and Peg Nelson to the 2018-2019 Finance Committee.

It has been three years since the financial policy was adopted. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to review and update the financial policy.** Further, to improve the stewardship and budgeting process, action was taken to immediately approve the addition of the word treasurer in the following two sections:

- **Pledge Secretary**
Tracks pledges and donations made by parish. This information should only be shared with the stewardship chair, treasurer and clergy as needed to fulfill their roles in the parish.
- **Pledges**
Pledged amounts are collected confidentially in each annual stewardship drive may only be known to the Stewardship Chair, Pledge Secretary, Treasurer and if they choose to know, the Clergy.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept these two changes.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to appoint Mick Kalber to serve as pledge secretary for another year, pending his acceptance.

Lynn will review the financial policy with fresh eyes. Following that Susan will present the new policy to the vestry for approval. Among these changes will be inclusion of a policy for appointment of the pledge secretary. Susan explained the need to forever keep pledge records by name and amount.

- The Parochial Report is being finalized for submission by March 1. The vestry will vote its approval by email. The Rector, Clerk, and Treasurer will sign the hard copy. The report is submitted electronically and hard copies are postal mailed or emailed to the diocese.

Rector's Items

- Worship – Continuing changes to Liturgy for Sunday services: Feedback indicates that most like the periods of silence which give time for reflection and allow us to take in the word. Fr. Richard suggests keeping the silence at least through Lent. Easter Sunday will be celebratory, but we may go back to it after Easter. Fr. Richard was thinking of another bell ring and asking, “Lord, what would you like me to hear?” It was suggested that in the bulletin we call the pre-service music ‘centering music’ to let people know that this is part of the worship. Perhaps the wording could be: Prelude (Centering Music).
- Ecumenical and Interfaith Opportunities: There is no new news on the comedians event. The committee is trying to find an event planner.
- On Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church will have a Lenten program, supervised by Pastor Janet, on commonly accepted wisdom that is often repeated but not in the bible.
- Some clergy, including Fr. Richard, are participating in a meeting about examining cultural assumptions of white privilege—how pervasive they are in our culture and how often we’re not aware.
- Funeral and Wedding Policies: Fr. Richard and Susan will work on updating the versions provided to us a few years ago. For funerals, policies regarding fees will be provided to the local funeral homes. For weddings, policies will be established regarding use of the church and hall by nonmembers and requests for the rector to perform a marriage offsite. Fr. Richard stated that the couple must indicate what is the pastoral nature of the wedding; is it a sacramental act or just a legal act.

Review of Last Month's Events

- Pulpit Swap – Fr. Richard & Rev Kirsten: It was agreed that this was a successful event and it would be nice to do it again next year.
- Souper Bowl Day of Caring - February 4, 2018: The event grossed \$229. There are some expenses against that, at least \$15 for the containers.
- Meet Your New Vestry – (value?): It was informal. It should not be on Souper Bowl Sunday. It was suggested that next year we introduce ourselves and say something about ourselves.

General

- The Welcome Card protocol is in place. It was recently used by visitors who then received a follow-up letter from the church secretary. This led to a discussion about not asking repeat visitors to get involved in ministries until at least six months have passed.
- Safe church training is required for all who work with children. It is recommended for all vestry members and anyone who holds a key to the church.
- Tamsin reminded us that the food pantry has provided a list of what it needs. They can always use protein such as canned or vacuum packed tuna or chicken, Parmalat milk and rice. They do not need soup, pasta or peanut butter.

Upcoming Events

- Mardi Gras Pancake Supper – February 13, 2018: Need contributions of orange juice and syrup.
- Bishop's Visit – March 11, 2018: We will have an expanded coffee hour. The vestry will probably meet with the Bishop after coffee hour.
- Vestry Retreat – (Date? Joint retreat with BLC?): This matter was tabled until the Executive Team determines the format and subject for the retreat.
- Parish Leadership Day (March 17, Registration is now open): Invite Family Worship team (Eileen, Cat, Mary Bridget) and Anne.

Building & Grounds

- Prayer Garden – Review Plans – Lynn Garland: Lynn circulated Cat's draft design. The garden will contain a stone statue of St. Francis, 3 feet high, 4 feet long, costing \$649. Landscaping costs will be determined and then Lynn, Rose and John will comprise a fundraising committee. It was suggested that signage would invite people to enjoy the prayer garden. **A motion to continue to work toward making it happen was made, seconded and approved.**
- Building & Grounds Report – Tamsin: There is no update from Cole Contracting yet and nothing from Shelby O'Day. Greg has polished the floor in the undercroft and will do the Winter Coat Closet room. Greg and Brian plan to paint the first classroom on the right, and then Greg will polish that floor. Before the Bishop's visit, Greg will wash and wax the parish hall floor.
- Use of the outside outlet by passersby was discussed. We should not advertise this as a mission.
- Susan bought 2,850 gallons of oil at \$2.49 a gallon. Because of the extreme cold we have burned almost 34 gallons a day between December 11 and February 1, more than last year when the YMCA was in residence.
- A programmable thermostat will be put into the foyer.

Closing Prayer- Prayer for the Parish

The meeting closed at 9:00 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting March 14, 2018, 7 P.M.