

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Minutes of Vestry Meeting of February 19, 2019

(Amended)

Present:

The Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson, rector; Beth Bickley; Bruce Perry; Harry Perry; Gene Marinelli, treasurer; Karen Armogida; Mechelle Olórtequi, senior warden; Jessica Tomic; Joy Dorin, assistant treasurer; Noreen Kirk, acting clerk.

Absent:

Jo-Ann Swanson, clerk; Sarah Tierinni, junior warden

Guests:

Karen Fedorchak, deacon emeritus; Randy Brown, Sustainability Team; Andrea Burr, Sustainability Team

Quorum: Yes

Call to Order with Opening Prayer: 6:35 pm

Attendees took turns reading aloud the items on the ECCT bookmark: "Spiritual Practices in a New Missional Age" and "What Is a Parish in a New Missional Age?"

Discussion of Options for St. Mary's, based on the publication, "The Smaller Congregation—Pathways in Challenging Times" by Alice Mann

Vestry and Sustainability Team members shared their thoughts about the various options described in the publication and how they might pertain to St. Mary's. Members will reflect on these ideas, explore ways to obtain input from parishioners and try to discern what God is calling St. Mary's to do.

AGENDA ITEMS

One Service at St. Mary's – The subject was raised for discussion with the idea that having one service would bring everyone in the parish together and perhaps generate more cohesiveness and energy. After some discussion, the group decided that maintaining both 7:30 am and 9 am services was the best course of action.

Holy Cow Consulting Parish Survey – Joy Dorin presented information about a proven survey tool available from Holy Cow Consulting. The Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) has been in use for decades and has been used by both Protestant and Roman Catholic congregations. According to the firm's website, the CAT is designed to, among other things, "Measure the level of satisfaction and

energy in the congregation, identify the critical success factors for improving organizational climate, pinpoint the strengths of your congregation's culture and discover where members would like to go in the future." The survey can be completed either online or on hard copy. It comes with communications materials to help lay the groundwork for the survey and encourage parishioners to respond. It takes two to three months from the beginning of the process to the final presentation of results. Results are analyzed and reported to the entire congregation by a professional specially trained in their analysis. Joy will send vestry more information, and we will vote on this issue at the March 24 meeting.

Minutes of January 21 – Mechelle Olórtegui moved to approve the minutes. Bruce Perry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Gene Marinelli distributed financial information and discussed highlights. Beth Bickley moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Joy Dorin seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The treasurer presented the Parochial Report to the vestry.

Miller and Sara Haugh Bequests – St. Mary's has been notified of three bequests from the estates of Miller and Sara Haugh. To date, we have received two of the three, and they total \$123,694. The third has not yet been settled and disbursed. The Finance Committee recommended that St. Mary's deposit \$38,000 of the money in the Capital Reserve Fund at ECCT to replenish monies that had been taken to pay for the renovations of 33 Park Street and deposit the rest in the Endowment Fund. Mechelle Olórtegui moved to take those steps. Beth Bickley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

McElraevy Concert – Ruth McElraevy submitted an Events Checklist proposing to hold another in the Richard J. McElraevy Memorial Concert Series on May 23, 2020. Joy Dorin moved to approve the plan, and the motion passed unanimously.

Change to March Vestry Meeting Date – Because of conflicts for some members and Rev. Ann, vestry approved changing the date of the March meeting from Tuesday, March 17, to Tuesday, March 24.

Announcements – Rev. Ann mentioned several activities she'd been engaged in, including working with the Rev. Douglas Barclay (Concordia Lutheran) and the Rev. Stephanie Kershner (Emanuel Lutheran) on Lenten services; working with regional clergy to plan a Lenten Quiet Day and a lay preacher training program for the spring; working with the core group involved in the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) to advocate for two upcoming pieces of state legislation: Clean Slate (making it easier for those with a record of minor offenses to have their records expunged) and repeal of the welfare lien law, which makes it nearly impossible for those who have received state assistance to support themselves once they've found employment.

CLOSING PRAYER

Attendees read "Our Prayer for St. Mary's Church" in unison.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen Kirk
Acting Clerk