

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Minutes of Vestry Meeting – July 16, 2019

Present:

The Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson, rector; Mechelle Olórtégui, senior warden; Sarah Tierinni, junior warden; Gene Marinelli, treasurer; Joy Dorin, assistant treasurer; Karen Armogida; Noreen Kirk (substituting for Jessica Tomic as clerk); Harry Perry; Bruce Perry; Jo-Ann Swanson; Eileen Christensen.

Absent:

Jessica Tomic

Guest:

The Rev. Karen Fedorchak, deacon emeritus

Quorum: Yes

Call to Order with Opening Prayer: 6:35 pm

All read "A Prayer for St. Mary's" aloud.

Guidelines for Mutuality

Group read guidelines in turn. Discussion followed.

Dwelling in the Word

Luke 10:38-42. Members read the passage aloud twice. Members then paired up to discuss the passage. Members shared key points with the larger group when all came back together.

May 28 Minutes

Vestry had not been able to vote on May minutes at the June meeting because a quorum was not present. When the May minutes were brought up at this meeting, Joy Dorin suggested we replace the wording of a resolution passed in May (affecting parish administrator's hours and insurance premium payments for rector and administrator) with the wording agreed to by the Finance Committee.

Sarah Tierinni moved to change the wording as described. Jo-Ann Swanson seconded.

The resolution was approved unanimously. The May 28 minutes will be amended to have the resolution read:

We move to reduce the administrator's hours, starting January 1, 2020, to 20 hours a week from the current 40 hours a week.

We also move to phase in a reduction in the church's contribution amount applied to the premium of the group medical insurance plan selected by the rector and administrator. This phase in will occur over the next three years as follows:

- *In 2020, the church will contribute a sum equal to 95% of the premium cost of the diocese's most expensive plan.*

- *In 2021, the church will contribute a sum equal to 90% of the premium cost of the diocese's most expensive plan.*
- *In 2021, the church will contribute a sum equal to 85% of the premium cost of the diocese's most expensive plan.*
In no case would the contribution by the church exceed the maximum premium cost of whatever plan the rector or administrator chooses.
 - *Six in favor*
 - *Three opposed*
 - *One abstention**Resolution was approved by majority vote.*

New Business:

Nate Carlson resignation -- Nate Carlson has written to say that, because of his work schedule and other commitments, he feels compelled to resign from vestry. Eileen Christensen moved that vestry accept Nate's resignation with regret. Joy Dorin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Don Zbyk resignation – St. Mary's longtime sexton, Don Zbyk, has tendered his resignation effective July 12, 2019. Don explained that he is resigning for personal reasons. Sarah Tierinni will obtain a farewell card for all to sign at services on July 21. Noreen Kirk moved, and Eileen Christensen seconded, that vestry accept Don's resignation. The motion passed unanimously.

Parishioner Proposal – Parishioner was invited to the meeting to present to vestry a proposal previously brought to the finance committee. In light of the parish's strong, negative reaction to the reduction in the administrator's hours, parishioner proposed a way to fund the position at 80 to 90 percent through 2020. Parishioner would transfer a distribution from their retirement account to St. Mary's for the purpose of funding the position. Parishioner would also contact other parishioners to ask them to increase their own pledges for the purpose. Vestry asked a couple of questions. Vestry thanked parishioner for their generous offer, and parishioner left the meeting. Extensive discussion followed. Vestry members will think about the proposal further and come to a decision at the August meeting.

Reflection on Recent Phone Outreach and First Sunday at Concordia

Members shared their experiences in calling parishioners to invite them to the July 1 dinner with Pastor Erik Karas of Christ Trinity in Sheffield, Massachusetts, and the July 7 discussion with the Rev. Tim Hodapp of ECCT.

Members also discussed the first joint services with Concordia, which took place on July 14. Reactions were overwhelmingly positive.

Adjournment: 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Noreen Kirk (for Jessica Tomic, clerk of the vestry)