

St. Mary's Vestry Meeting Minutes: November 1, 2020**ATTENDEES:**

Ann Lovejoy Johnson, JoAnn Swanson, Gene Marinelli, Jessica Tomic, Karen Fedorchak, Noreen Kirk, Bruce Perry, Joy Dorin, Sarah Tierinni, Mechelle Olórtogui, Karen Armogida, Beth Bickley, Harry Perry

CALL TO ORDER:

Opened with a prayer for St. Mary's at 11:16

BUSINESS ITEMS:**1. Tech Team**

Tech team proposal was reviewed as presented in document posted on line. They will meet again on Nov. 10th for further discussion. The Finance team will meet at the same time. It was said that wires would be placed in the balcony with the router by Cox Cable. They will charge \$290.00 a month for this service. It will also enable us to main-stream all services to the public.

Gene M. Volunteered to be the first member trained to head this ministry. Rick will go with Gene to purchase equipment and the warranty which will need to be put in St. Mary 's name.

A questioned arose as to the need to vote on all this plus allowing four more parishioners at the Thursday services. A motion was made to allow 4 parishioners to join Morning Devotion recordings on Thurs. and passed unanimously. The installation of recording equipment will be voted on at next meeting.

2. Vestry Calls

Mechelle reported on how important Vestry calls are to our parishioners and how much they are appreciated. Some parishioners have reported they have not had contact. She asked that we continue the calls and she will check with us in Dec. as to how they are going. She asks the Vestry to invite parishioners to join us at Zoom coffee hour on the 8th and the outdoor Thanksgiving service on the 15th for which they will get an invitation. Calls should be made during these next two weeks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:**1. Seasonal Sharing**

From now until November 18th Seasonal Sharing drop offs can be made at church with Sandy and gift cards and money also given to Sandy or put in mailbox.

2. Upcoming Dates

Nov. 10th - new date for next Vestry meeting.

Nov.17th - Lee Ann Tolzman at 6:30 to 8pm

Dec. 6th - Bishop Ahrens at our 10:00 service followed by a Vestry meeting

Nov.22th - 4pm. Zoom for interfaith service. You have to register to get a special link.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CAT Survey Results (see agenda for questions)

Joy D. suggested we purchase a summary with commentary produced by Holy Cow at the cost of \$350.00. This summary can be shared along with a cover letter, to the parish. The summary is done with people who were not at the meeting with Rich in mind.

WHAT SURPRISED YOU?

(comments from Vestry members)

1. number of responses- tells us people care a lot and want to be heard
 2. how "old" we are and what the average household income is
 3. what mattered to them is the people and the liturgy, not the building
 4. # of people who prioritized the getting of new people into the church and how this is so hard; also, music and how much people miss it, so we have to plan how to meet this need
 5. 7% thought the building was important. 67% of respondents were over 65. Traditions are important but not the building
 6. Adapting to stay connected, 7-14 people have not realized how much of an effort has been made to connect folks
- Human emotions in the answers means we have to read between the lines, it's not that we haven't done enough, just not what some people want.
7. Lots of positive responses showing that people would like to give- "both-and"
 8. One theme noticed is that there is a population that will "stay behind" and so should they be "cut loose?"
 9. Surprised that we are deemed a priest centered church now as when we were in transition, we thought we wanted a priest to walk with us not be authoritative
 10. Surprised at some of the more honest comments

Could we ask Rich if we should identify several themes among the comments and select several comments to support each theme? Joy will email him.

This is different from Holy Cow's summary because it doesn't include comments. There is a concern for using actual words as opposed to synthesizing the comments - remembering the promise of confidentiality.

11. the answers that willingly offered to give of time and talent to the parish

WHAT EXCITES YOU?

1. Glad there wasn't a large emphasis on the building- offers more opportunities
2. excited about the quadrant we landed in, allows for positive movement
3. 36% of the responders would like to continue our relationship with Concordia but almost half the congregation does not. There are a lot of people on the fence.
4. Love for outreach work that are traditions for St. Mary's, we can build on that- younger and older groups working together
5. 60% of responders think we will stay the same

THINGS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT

1. Contradiction of wanting new families yet wanting to stay the same
2. How to interpret the feelings about the liturgy, "my service, my friends" in my church
3. Don't want to feel racist with political and/or civic discourse- we have an older parish and in the context of history, there is a comfort level with culture and perspective to consider
4. Flexibility and adapting- words for our future
5. We want to broaden, not homogenize our traditions- not "change" but "add on."

Be progressive yet respect traditions.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT?

1. 70% said they weren't willing to give more. Does that leave enough to make some changes? It's very troubling because we weren't supposed to consider the pandemic but it just does play into a lot of the answers

Is there a specific idea of what it means to "do more?"

WHAT IS EMERGING?

1. support for live-streaming
2. the possibility in Jan. of a real conversation about returning to the building

3. being in the building with more people is not a comfortable idea at this time

4. communication of these results and managing the responses, laying out different ways we will do this, all the decisions we make and the reasons why, lots of explanations

Episcopal churches have been strongly urged not to meet within their buildings at this time.

Could we let our parish know why we are still out of our building again, having done this once a while back. There are different ways of communicating to get questions answered. Does information mean more if citing from the rector?

CAT committee could look into various ways to communicate with Noreen and Beth joining the effort.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended with a prayer at 12:58.