

St. Mary's Vestry Meeting, November 10, 2020 held by Zoom Video Conference

Present:

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

Opening prayer offered at 6:38.

Minutes:

Motion made to pass October's minutes made and passes.

Business:

Recommendations for endowment funds exception discussed by Finance Committee- only to be used as needed to be stated in resolution, last sentence won't be included: " Not to exceed \$8,000, or a vote from Vestry would be needed."

One comment was made about not wanting to include the specific amount of money. A request was made by Sandy to Gene for more money.

If this resolution passes, it gives a blanket permission to pull funds s needed each month. This exception would run through 2021 and then be revisited.

"We, senior warden and Rector, recommend that the St. Mary's treasurer, in consultation with the Finance Committee, access the unrestricted bequest funds as needed in 2021."

The vestry will vote on this proposal as needed. It requires a 2/3 majority vote of the vestry.

Motion made and the vote to pass was unanimous with everyone present.

Tech team:

The live stream proposal update: wires will run to the balcony tomorrow and then Cox will return to complete the job. A move was made to accept the proposal, seconded and passed.

A question was offered about the practicality of spending the money on this system if Gene M. is the only one on the committee. There is concern that others might not become involved. Take Covid out of the equation and we would still have trouble getting volunteers. The "will" to learn new skills is needed for this ministry. Gene will look to the usher teams, Jessica will ask Logan if he would be interested.

Gene wants to have the set up to show others what we have, maybe ready for the Christmas team.

Another vestry member questioned the value of the tech project. Beth did a wonderful job summarizing it; it allows and expands our ability to share a service, almost like being in church. Covid doesn't allow us to be in church but the live-streaming brings us in to be involved from anywhere.

On average there are 6 who click on as service is presented now. The question is will more use it if new technology is available. We know that people want the 7:30 and 10 services back.

Question: Do we have enough evidence to spend the money?

Once we "open-up we should provide an alternative way for others to view the services remotely. People want options.

A motion was made, a vote taken and the Tech proposal passed.

A request was made that information and requests folks interested in the Media ministry be placed in the ENewsletter and Thursday notes.

Ann will turn the contract with Rick over to Gene.

The treasurer's report was presented. We have a \$7,000 surplus compared to a \$4,000 deficit last year. Other details are stated in report as presented. There were no questions for Gene. Motion made to accept report and passed.

Stewardship:

Harry hosted a great coffee hour last Sunday, 22 attended. Last year at this time we had 21 returns with \$54,000.00 pledged. This year 146 pledge requests went out to 146 people. 24 have RSVPed. 116 out of 153 pledged last year.

Announcements:

There is a seasonal sharing drop-off on the rectory porch and gift cards can be given to Sandy until Nov. 18th.

Next Tuesday Canon LeeAnn Tolzman Will join us.

November 29th will be a celebration of Deacon Karen's 30th anniversary.

November 22nd, Beth Lavalette will be our preacher.

November 29th there will be a Zoom service at 4 pm. It will be an Advent meditative service with both organ and piano music.

November 19th starts 10 sessions of a "deep dive" into racism.

CAT news:

A communication proposal recommendation, attached to other documents to be sent out, a summary and cover memo prepared by the CAT team thanking everyone and restating the purpose and including an identification of high-priority items. Joy also explained our decision to exclude specific comments and just go with themes.

Without specific dates it will be a roll-out that happens as materials arrive and sent out.

First step is to send out the summary and then at the Dec. 10th Vestry meeting CAT will discuss the summary and decide the high priority items. We should come to the meeting with two items we think should be priorities.

Celebrations/ appreciations:

Jessica told us that Troop 27 is still working around the outside of the church doing an awesome leaf clean-up!

Noreen for running a featured article in the newsletter interviewing the ten people who are seeking to be lay ministers and why they feel called to do this.

Laura Hart for joining Ann to assist in baptisms in private homes.

Michelle thanked all for making the vestry calls to check up on parishioners and to please continue to call.

Beth mentioned that the All Souls day service was lovely.

Meeting was closed with a prayer at 8:20 pm.