

The Church of the Good Shepherd
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Minutes for January 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting by Zoom due to the COVID-19
Pandemic

Clergy and Staff present: Arianne Rice+

Officers present: Tina Thomas (Sr. Warden), Harry Andrews (Junior Warden), Bill Nesbitt (Treasurer) Cynthia Fraser (Registrar)

Vestry members present: Missy Adams, Bill Baker, Liza Ebeling, Mary Ellen Gervais, Harry Gormley Jr., Jill Hanson, Brooke Riegel, Marge Rodgers, Barry Rollins, Rebecca Williams

Vestry members absent: Sarah Lemon (GS Day School Director)

WELCOME AND GROUP CHECK INS

Arianne + welcomed everyone back and the new Vestry members, Mary Ellen Gervais, Jill Hanson, Marge Rodgers and Barry Rollins. She introduced John Frisch of Shawan Leadership, as our Mutual Ministry facilitator. She ran over our agenda for the evening and opened with a prayer from St. Francis. We then checked in and the questions were “share a word about how you are feeling this evening - in body, mind or spirit”, “what word describes your intention as a Vestry person this new year, and in a sentence or two, what does the phrase ‘beloved community’ mean to you?”

Arianne+ then explained the Mutual Ministry Review. It is about assessing our work as a Vestry and a church and our relationship with the Rector and setting goals for the parish. She asked that every Vestry member fill out the assessment, which is due on February 3rd. We will then meet on February 9th without Arianne+ to discuss the results. John and Tina will discuss the results with Arianne+ and give her feedback based on the surveys. This exercise should help the Vestry come up with 2-3 things to concentrate on in the future that will be most impactful to our church. It is suggested that a parish do this annually and our Vestry has done goal setting in the past through retreats.

RECTOR REPORT

Arianne+ mentioned that every year she needs approval from the Vestry for the Annual Housing Allowance for tax purposes. Bill Nesbitt read the Housing Allowance aloud. Tina Thomas then made a motion to accept the housing allowance of \$3,000. Liza Ebeling seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Arianne+ mentioned that the Christmas service had 224 views and the Pageant has 141 views. She received a lot of positive feedback for sending a hard copy of the Christmas Service to all the parishioners.

She mentioned we had a quorum at our Annual Meeting on Zoom last Sunday. The parishioners voted on the new Vestry members, and said goodbye and thank you to our outgoing members. She mentioned we may gather in May to formally change the bylaws to have our Annual

Meeting in January every year. At the Annual Meeting, she took a poll for small groups this Spring. The most popular was a book club on Bishop Curry's book, "The Way of Love". There was also interest in the Episcopal Church course on civil discourse and a class on Brene Brown's "Gifts of Imperfection" led by Arianne+. We need to get people to sign up for a group.

She mentioned Lent begins on February 17th. The Sacred Ground groups will be working on a Lenten Reflection book, which will be printed and can be picked up at the church.

She mentioned that four Day School teachers have been vaccinated.

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Tina Thomas reported that the Capital Campaign Committee met and they will meet again in February. She has 9-10 people and would like to double that number by March.

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

Harry Andrews mentioned that 103 years ago Good Shepherd held their first Christmas service in the Smith Room. The Parish Hall is 90 years old, the church is aging and had a small electrical problem and some plumbing issues, but is doing well at the moment.

Arianne+ mentioned that we need more people who understand the new audio/visual system, and she wants to make it a requirement for the new Associate Rector, that they can assist with streaming the service on Sundays.

TREASURER REPORT

Bill Nesbitt reported that we ended 2020 pretty well despite the Day School having a difficult year. 2021 will be a challenge as we are behind in pledges for Annual Giving, we are not sure about the cost share with Day School this year, and we hope to have a new Associate Rector join us in the Spring. These are all stresses on the budget.

He mentioned that we continue to pay five members of our choir on a reduced basis during the pandemic. Since last March, we continue to pay \$350 a month, one person opted out so the cost is \$1,400 a month. Bill asked a motion for us to continue to pay for four choir members through June at the \$350 a month stipend. Tina motioned we continue to pay our four choir members and Harry Gormley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Someone asked if we qualify for the new PPE money, and Bill explained that we received the first round of money and our loan was forgiven, but we do not qualify this time.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Bill Baker said we are 20% behind last year in pledging, and pledges are averaging 5% less than last year. He asked people to pledge and to remind their friends to please pledge. It was suggested that the Vestry call the remaining parishioners who have not pledged. There are about 90 who have not pledged yet. 106 have pledged.

COGS CONNECTS

Brooke Riegel explained this new group is trying to connect with parishioners especially during the pandemic, and they will hold a Zoom coffee hour after the 10 AM Service on January 24th.

OUTREACH

Ariane+ and Cynthia Fraser gave a quick update on the Outreach Committee which met and they managed to get Christmas gifts to the SLYC families using Amazon and continue to work on collecting food for ACTC.

REPARATIONS COMMITTEE

Hillary Shaffer explained what the Reparations Committee is and that they had a meeting. This is an outgrowth of the Sacred Circle groups.

Ariane+ asked how the break out groups worked during the Annual Meeting. She asked for pastoral concerns and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM

Submitted by Cynthia Fraser, Registrar for the Vestry

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