

## **The Church of the Good Shepherd**

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Minutes for June 16, 2020 at 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting by Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Clergy and Staff present:** Arianne Rice+, Van Gardner+, Sarah Lemon (GSS Director)

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

**Vestry members present:** Missy Adams, Bill Baker, John Bonn, Liza Ebeling, Harry Gormley Jr., Kate Knott, Bill Nesbitt, Brooke Riegel, Hillary Shaffer, Rebecca Williams

**Vestry members absent:** Jamey Hebb, Dick Reid (Treasurer)

### **WELCOME AND GROUP CHECK INS**

The meeting opened at 6:30 PM by Zoom since everyone was social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Arianne+ opened with a prayer and asked the Vestry to check in with one thing they are “Grateful for” and one thing they are “struggling with” during this unprecedented time.

We then participated in a Lecto. We listened to a scripture, then shared the word or phrase that resonated with us and then broke into groups to discuss how this passage applied to the church.

### **BUSINESS MEETING:**

We began by talking about the Day School budget. Sarah Lemon joined to explain her budget for 2020-2021 calendar year, so the Vestry could vote to approve it. The Day School has 144 contracts for next year. They had a deficit this year due to the pandemic and they refunded 12.5% of the tuition to all students because they missed 25% of in person learning. The refund will be applied to next year’s tuition for those returning. Sarah discussed how proud she was of her teachers and how well they adapted to distance learning. The Day School also received the PPE Loan and that helped reduce the deficit by paying \$120,000 for payroll. Her budget calls for \$792,347.17 for the next calendar year. The church allocation is \$65,000. She projects a \$41,911 loss next year based on where we are now. They had a \$17,000 loss this year mitigated by the federal loan. Tina Thomas made a motion that we accept the 2020-2021 Day School Budget and Harry Gormley seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

They discussed some members of the Day School participating in the Buildings & Grounds Committee tasked with figuring out the details of reopening the school and the church. The school is sending out a survey to their parents about reopening much like the church survey.

### **JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT:**

Harry Andrews gave an update on the AV System. They have had delays with the company as now many churches and businesses need this equipment and it became apparent during the pandemic that our update was not adequate, and we will need a system that will cost double or triple the first approved cost of \$25,000. They have reworked our system three times.

The slate roof replacement continues and they are moving to the 1917 church, which will involve repairs to the steeple and bell tower. The slate is being shipped from Vermont and Harry expects the work to be completed by September.

Harry reported there was an electrical outage that caused the AC to go out, but everything has been resolved.

### **SENIOR WARDEN REPORT:**

Tina Thomas asked that some of the Vestry members volunteer to write thank you notes to parishioners who increased their pledge since last year or have paid ahead of time.

She mentioned that ACTC continues to need food and help and that she ordered food through Amazon and had it delivered to Suzanne Whitney's home very easily. She also reminded the Vestry that if you pick the Church of the Good Shepherd as your charity through Amazon Smile, a portion of all of your orders will go to our church.

She mentioned that Mark McGrath has agreed to chair the Investment Committee, and we should thank Alex Fisher for his many years serving in that position.

### **RECTOR REPORT:**

Arianne+ sent the Vestry the results of the survey sent to the congregation about when they would feel comfortable reopening. She said the results were as varied as the members and many voiced their individual desires and risks and she said church is not a store or a business, they are waiting for the "church" to decide. She said we are still a church even without the physical church being open.

She said the Vestry needs to lead during this time and join one or both committees, "Reaching Out" or "Outreach". The Buildings & Grounds Committee need 4-6 additional members tasked with figuring out what need to happen to reopen. The church needs to be deep cleaned, PPE supplies ordered and protocols put in place on how to gather safely in small groups. Arianne+ thought we should have a temporary sign made that says the "Building is closed, but Church is Open".

The Outreach Committee continues to work safely helping ACTC and SLYC will be having a virtual camp and will need help. She announced that St. Luke's is officially closing the church. She mentioned the work of Outreach, in light of the protests, they are developing a reading list and list of movies to help us better understand racism. She mentioned the film series, "Walking the Way of Love, One Step at a Time".

She expressed her concern that the weight of the pandemic and fear of reopening with many of our congregation being in a high-risk group is too heavy for one person. Arianne+ said she is concerned for the health and safety of her congregation and hopes the Vestry shares her concern.

She invited the Vestry to help and many agreed to join the committees there and many are already on one of the two committees.

Van+ then mentioned that the Creation Care group should have a liaison to the Building & Grounds Committee to make sure the church uses environmentally sound practices wherever

possible in cleaning and reopening the church. He also suggested that the church engage with SLYC in the “Sacred Ground” series and have a conversation with them.

**PASTORAL NEEDS:**

Arianne+ mentioned some parishioners pastoral needs and asked if the Vestry had any to add. Van+ mentioned that he presided over the interment of the Reverend Ben Smith in Virginia with a small group of family. Arianne+ prayed for the world for reconciliation and courage. We concluded by saying “The Lord’s Prayer.” The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next meeting will be July 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30.

Submitted by Cynthia Fraser, Registrar for the Vestry

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments:

Junior Warden’s Report

Treasurer’s Report and Statement of Financial Position as of May 31, 2020