

The Church of the Good Shepherd

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Minutes for March 21, 2023 at 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting, held in the Parish Hall.

Clergy present: Arianne Rice+, Mark Lobb+

Officers present: Kirsten Lavin (Sr. Warden), Bill Baker (Junior Warden) Bill Nesbitt (Treasurer), Cynthia Fraser (Registrar)

Vestry members present: Grace Belkot, Cathy Easter, Mary Ellen Gervais, Marge Rodgers, Barry Rollins, Cheryl Seal

Absent: Jill Hanson, Charles Warren

WELCOME AND GROUP CHECK INS:

Arianne+ began our meeting with an opening prayer from BCP 139 and a check in. “Who is the person in your life who enables you to shine your light?”

OFFICER REPORTS:

Arianne+ and Kirsten began the meeting with a review of our retreat and the flip charts from the retreat were up in the Parish Hall, and we were given a nice summary of the retreat with all the data from the questions we answered at the retreat. We discussed sharing our results with the congregation and getting their input through various channels such as a forum after worship on Good Shepherd Sunday, April 30th. The congregation could vote on the same questions with flip charts posted in the foyer. We also talked about a digital version and a hard copy that people could fill out manually and return to the church. We talked about having committee members discuss the survey with their members.

We talked about “next steps”. Arianne+ mentioned that Wim and Cynthia have agreed to help with videos for the website and the foyer that talk about the life of our church and perhaps short videos about our various ministries. Arianne+ also shared that Sara Noon is willing to volunteer her talent in updating our website, and Kirsten mentioned she would like to help with making online giving easier. We talked about forming a website committee.

Cathy Easter has volunteered to help with stewardship. We had a long discussion about the need for a fundraiser and Capital Campaign but we need to discern the “Why?” we are asking people to give first. Bill said there is money budgeted in the annual budget for a fundraiser this year. We are concerned we cannot keep dipping into our Endowment and other funds to sustain operating expenses. We decided to have a Stewardship Committee formed before the summer.

Arianne+ encouraged us to attend the Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday and explained what the meal and the service are like. Grace and Cheryl are helping to coordinate the dinner.

Arianne+ mentioned she has not had much luck getting people to sign up for her two Lenten Practice events and that she has a pod cast for Lent.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:

Here is Kirsten's report.

Held on March 4, the retreat was facilitated by Rev. Kristin Kranz, Director of the College of Congregational Development Maryland. The exercises and reflections focus on Group and Team Dynamics, and then Sources of Transformation. The vestry participated actively in all facets including a data gathering exercise that asked us to rate our work in the areas of Study and Learning, Action, Prayer and Worship, and Life in the Community. Data gathered from the vestry will be shared and discussed at the March 22 Vestry Meeting.

It is intended that this exercise will form the basis to gather information from the broader congregation. We hope to include both a survey monkey online option, and in person option during our coffee hours. We should consider offering other in person options to garner this feedback to ensure we are also engaging with those individuals who do not regularly attend services but are part of our community.

The vestry also discussed sending two members to the College of Congregational Development Program, which is a multiyear commitment, starting with the June 2023 session. Arianne, Grace, and Mary Ellen are now scheduled to attend.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bill explained to us about our endowment funds, the Heritage, Disciples and Shepherd's Fund and which are restricted and how each are to be used.

Bill mentioned that he anticipates having to transfer funds from the Disciples Fund for operating expenses in April and May to make payroll and probably \$50K more before the end of the year. Kirsten made a motion to move the money from the Disciples Fund to help with operating expenses, \$25K in April and \$25K in May, and Mary Ellen seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

We talked more about our financial situation and Arianne+ mentioned we used to have a Planned Giving Committee. She also said she doesn't think the congregation knows the impact of the new roof on our finances and its impact and that the vestry was thinking of our future for the next 100 years when they approved a slate roof and that story should be told.

TREASURER'S NOTES/COMMENTS:

1. Our financial condition remains guarded
2. The completion of the roof will reduce the balance in the Improvement Fund to \$128,031 and reduce our total endowment balance to \$1,031,663. This balance will erode further as we continue to use endowment funds for operations.
3. Annual giving income YTD is \$43,400 lower than last year, resulting in a projected deficit in this category alone of \$33,551.

4. We budgeted \$12,000 net proceeds from Fundraising Event(s). Work on this should begin soon if we hope to hold such an event this year.
5. Our overall projected deficit is now \$152,000, up from the initial budgeted figure of \$111,000.
6. At this coming vestry meeting I will be seeking approval for transfers from the Disciples Fund to support operations, beginning as early as this month.
7. Our total equity is down \$207,940 compared to last year, reflecting our use of endowment funds for operations, erosion of the market, and unbudgeted repairs.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION 02/28/23:

1. Investments and Bank accounts = ~\$1.25 million
2. Operating Account balance = \$40,768
3. Liabilities = \$13,020 (J2A pilgrimage, memorial funds, and the security deposit for rectory rental (\$4,450))
4. Total Equity = ~\$2.77 million

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY 02/28/23:

1. Pledge income is down ~\$49,700 compared to this time last year
2. Salaries are up ~\$15,000 compared to last year
3. Employee benefits have increased \$7,500 compared to last year
4. Utilities have increased ~\$1900 compared to last year

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT:

Bill said thankfully it has been a quiet month for buildings and grounds. Here is his report.

- The spring landscaping and grounds cleanup has been completed. We may want to consider reviving Blue Jean Sunday for future cleanups.
- The vestry approved the reimbursement to the school for the repair of the floor in classroom 7
- The vestry has also approved funds necessary to replace roof sections 5 & 9 from the Improvement Fund. This will complete the roof replacement this summer.
- The refrigerator in the kitchen is barely maintaining an adequate temperature and may need to be replaced at some point.

PASTORAL CONCERNS:

Arianne+ mentioned that the Diocese will be electing a new Bishop next Saturday and that she and Mark, Mary Ellen and Marge would be there to vote and she asked for our prayers. She mentioned the Monday after Easter, she will be on a retreat at a Trappist Monastery for a week of silence. We then prayed for those needing our thoughts and prayers this week and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting concluded at 7:49 PM.

Submitted by Cynthia Fraser, Registrar for the Vestry

Signature *Cynthia Fraser*