

The Church of the Good Shepherd

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Minutes for September 15, 2020 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), Dick Reid (Treasurer), Bill Nesbitt (in coming Treasurer) Cynthia Fraser (Registrar)

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

Vestry members absent: Van Gardner+, Missy Adams, Sarah Lemon (GS Day School Director)

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. For our check in, Arianne+ asking everyone to find something nearby that represents love or hope to them. She had a zoom recently where they said “zoom is a window into the lives of others.”

She said an Evening Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer book, and the August minutes were accepted.

RECTOR’S REPORT:

Arianne+ reported that the Homecoming zoom was a success with 44+ tuning in and reporting they were uplifted and encouraged by the meeting. She announced the services for the next three weeks, while the weather should still be mild. For Sept 20th, 27th and October 3rd, there will be an 8AM outdoor service, 9:15 AM live stream and 10AM outdoor service with 10:45 zoom coffee hour. She asked that one or two Vestry members sign up to greet people outside. If the weather is bad, outdoor services will be cancelled and there will be a 10AM live stream. She said our schedule might change in these uncertain times and we all need to be flexible.

She said AA meetings are resuming outside under the tent with a maximum of 25 people socially distancing and the meetings were approved by the Diocese.

Kate Knott mentioned that they need people to help run the live streaming of our services on the I-Pad. Kate and Wim Cassard have been doing it since the pandemic started and need more help. Hillary Shaffer and Brooke Riegel volunteered to learn how to help.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Bill Nesbitt reported the church is in good financial shape and our income is up \$40,000 from this time last year. Our investment funds are doing well and our equity is up a little bit. There is \$34,000 in the roof fund for the steeple/bell tower repair and there is one more payment on Phase III of the roof repair.

M+T has not opened up the portal to forgive the PPP loan, but he is ready to submit their paperwork when it opens. Our liabilities are less than \$9K and we are ahead in pledges, people are paying in advance this year. We are \$32,000 ahead of last year, but there was a \$25K donation from the Richard Thomas estate.

Outreach has not paid for Camp Imagination expenses yet, but they will be less since it was virtual. He expects the Outreach Committee to spend the money before the end of the year.

There is a \$4,350 tent expense for loaning the tent for outdoor services.

The Finance Committee met and they recommend to the Vestry that the five paid choir members be paid \$350/ a month per person from September through December. This is less than their usual amount, but not by much, many depend on the income. We will still be within budget for the year. Rebecca Williams made a motion and Bill Baker seconded it that the Vestry approve the funds for the paid choir members through the end of this year. Bill Nesbitt and John Bonn abstained from voting as they are members of the choir.

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT:

Tina Thomas showed a slide on zoom of 10 paid and not paid for major projects. The total for these items was \$1,031,341. The Vestry decided that an Associate Rector and Outreach should be top of the list for the church operating budget in 2021. She suggested a Feasibility Committee to explore the feasibility of these items and asked that 7 people help her with this effort as part of the Capital Campaign. Liza Ebeling mentioned that she thought it was good that this will be a transparent process.

She mentioned that it is time to think about who will be on the Nominating Committee to select the new Vestry members who will come on in January. She asked the outgoing members, John Bonn, Hillary Shaffer, Kate Knott and Harry Andrews to send their suggestions to her by October.

Arianne+ mentioned she will be in touch with Cynthia Fraser about amending the Church By-Laws to move the Annual Meeting from May to January. She will present this change to the Vestry in October, but the congregation has to vote on the final change at the Annual Meeting.

Tina mentioned that Bill Baker and Harry Gormley are starting up a mailer for the Stewardship Campaign.

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT:

Harry Andrews said that happily nothing has to be fixed “today”, everything is coming along well with the slate roof repair. He mentioned that the steeple came down with the roof repair and fell apart so they repaired the area nicely until the church can decide how to proceed or not with the replacement of the steeple. He showed a photo after the steeple was gone.

Tina mentioned that we need a new Junior Warden and to think about who could fill this important position.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

Hillary Shaffer reported that the Outreach Committee has been working in small groups on the Sacred Ground curriculum of books and movies about racial inequity. She was pleased to announce that the Diocese approved \$1 million in reparations at their annual virtual Convention last week that she attended as a Delegate for Good Shepherd. 83% of those attending the Convention voted for reparations which is 20% of their operating budget and more than 90 % of their parishioners are white. She said they also want each church to consider contributing more and this tied into the work the Sacred Ground groups are doing this summer and fall. She mentioned that Amanda Talbot joined our Outreach meeting to show the budget of SLYC and discuss the ongoing needs during the pandemic. Their need is great now, as is the need for food from ACTC.

DAY SCHOOL REPORT:

Liza Ebeling said the Day School will be a full capacity next week and it was heartening to see the kids on the playground playing at the school. Sarah Lemon is doing well and Liza commended her on doing a phenomenal job under difficult conditions with the pandemic and getting the kids safely back into school.

PASTORAL NEEDS:

Arianne+ mentioned that Bob Locke is recovering nicely and he asked to be removed from the prayer list. Roy Parsons is on home hospice at Blakehurst, so she asked for prayers for him and any others the Vestry knew from their recent calls.

Tina mentioned that connection is so important in this pandemic and then we discussed resurrecting the Pastoral Care Committee to help keep in contact with the seniors and those who are alone during this pandemic.

Arianne+ closed our meeting in prayer and then we said the Lord's Prayer and concluded at 7:45 PM.

Submitted by Cynthia Fraser, Registrar for the Vestry

Signature _____

Attachments:

Rector's Report

Senior Warden Report

Junior Warden's Report

Treasurer's Report