

Vestry Meeting June 23, 2021 @ 6:30 pm (virtual via Zoom)

In attendance: Nancy Emmel Gunn, John Eads, Liam Clements, Margarita Tschomakoff, Ann Balsamo, Jeff McIntire-Strasburg, Anna Hall, Brent Brower-Toland & Ann Quay Rushing, Reverend Michael Dunnington.

Absent: Steve Hoeplinger (Ann Balsamo will fill in Steve on what he missed)

Opening Prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

Declaration of a Quorum - John Eads

Appreciations - Anna Hall will mail out letters to those mentioned.

Accept minutes from May: John Eads motions, Jeff M-S seconds, all accept unanimously

Budget - John Eads

- Get into the habit of reviewing the budget for every vestry meeting, all to have an understanding of the finances
- When Nancy and John met with Bishop Deon, it became clear that the budget is not viewer friendly and/or intuitive
- Vestry members have reached out to Steve Young, but haven't heard back from him. Jim Kearn, bookkeeper, has put in his resignation as of August to no longer serve as bookkeeper. As we look to replace Jim, this may be a moment to look into raising the salary towards a bookkeeper as well as tasks and expectations. Writing up a job description and posting the job should (hopefully) garner some responses and interest through the diocese. It is also worth asking Jim if he would recommend anyone that may have interest. We need to talk directly to Desire and post on I-Seek. Has the diocese ever considered shared services (bookkeepers, cleaners, etc). There are a number of churches that are financially struggling - how can we share resources and services? John will be reaching out to Desire through the diocese.
- We are down on pledges and rental income. Welcome Neighbor STL is still not paying rent, and lease has lapsed. Renting the basement space does not have enough fire exits, and cannot be considered 'up to code' to rent again. We need to keep this in mind as we redo our budget for the upcoming year.
- There are leases up to the standing committee (funeral director, counselor) at the moment for the renovated office spaces.
- Our expenses at the moment are also drastically down. Clergy expenses have been way down over what was anticipated at the beginning of the year. We are mostly okay, though this is not sustainable. Expenses will go back up as we hire clergy and are using the building.
- One huge change to the budget report that would be helpful to get a good view of the whole year is to break down month periods based on monthly budgeted items.
- Finance committee met together on Sunday, June 20 briefly after service. Ann has requested a number of people that are doing direct deposit to do a campaign to get more people to use this since pegging numbers are down.

Streaming Committee Report - Ann Quay

- The Streaming Committee is a different group of people than the Worship Committee. There have been issues with audio and video. The camera and computer are not communicating; it may be some kind of firewall issue? Wifi is also an issue in the sanctuary. The wifi access point is moved at the beginning of service, but looking into a more permanent fix like creating more access points. Do we want to set up the wifi for solely streaming or is this something we want to offer to the congregation? This could give administrative access and a separate guest access (a security measure). Depending on what we want to do will result in what we want to buy.
- Purchasing a sound board, tablet, laptop are all under discussion for using the \$2500 grant from the diocese. The grant is specifically for streaming services on the internet. We have to make sure the case is very strong how the equipment is used for streaming.
- Do we want to continue to offer Zoom service moving forward (long term)? The other option is thinking through a recording of the service to be posted at a later time. The zoom service did also provide a certain warmth that people are still wanting, and what the service in person is able to provide.
- Zoom as a streaming platform has been a real hassle, so it may not be the best use of time and resources moving forward. Ann Quay will reach out to the diocese to seek approval for a change of language in the reopening plan, from “provide zoom” to “provide streaming options.”
- It would be beneficial to have recorded services available on the website for folks browsing or seeking local churches. It is important to project out a welcoming and open image. Rev. Michael can see what is on other churches’ websites to see what is available.

Building and Grounds Committee - John Eads

- The diocese is evaluating buildings throughout the region. We have been directed to complete a Property Assessment. Among other things, this will involve a drone and is a very hefty list. There is not a deadline at this time, but a meeting will be scheduled once the report is completed. The B&G committee chair is currently out of the country. This report will also need to include historical information.
- We may need to get some teams together to take the report apart and make some groups to get this information for the report.
- An announcement will be made to the congregation to invite parishioners to stay after church on July 11 to review the report. Lunch can be provided.

Senior Warden’s Report - John Eads

- John is out of town many weekends in July.
- Divine Purpose Statement Workshop (July 17, Saturday am) - rethinking the scheduled time because a number of people cannot make it in July. Mid September is a better window for the group. John Eads will reach back out to Martin and Valorie to get the date changed with their availability.
- July meeting dates - keep Vestry meeting on Sunday, July 18th.
- Vestry social event / meet and greet - Anna Hall will send out another calendar invite to determine a time for everyone to attend.

- Ordinations - Nancy is being ordained on July 23rd at 7:00 pm. Dave Malek will be ordained at the Cathedral on Saturday, July 24.

Loose Ends

Jeff M-S will attend the Executive meeting on July 14, 2021.