

Vestry Meeting October 18, 2020 @ 12:15 pm

In attendance: Warren Crews, Sally Weaver, Kevin McGrane, John Eads, Ann Quay Rushing, Liam Clements, Margarita Tschomakoff, Brent Brower-Toland, Ann Balsamo, Steve Hoeplinger
Missing: Jeff McIntire Strasburg

Opening Prayer, Warren Crews

Declaration of a Quorum

- Appreciations discussed by Vestry. Anna Hall will send handwritten notes.
- Cindy Keyte (current clerk) has said she would like to step down as clerk. Appointing Anna Hall as clerk of the Vestry: moved by John Eads, seconded by Liam Clements, unanimous vote from Vestry.
- Minutes from September will be voted on in the following weeks, for they were not sent out to Vestry prior to meeting. The Vestry will be asked to review minutes and vote either via email or at our next month's meeting.

Stewardship report, Sally Weaver -

- Adrian Story is leading the stewardship campaign. The schedule of speakers:
28th Kurt Greenbaum
1st Hannah Harkey
8th Financial Information - Announcements will be a step chart of where members of St. John's fall in their giving
15th Ingathering celebration - Featured Speaker (sermon): Rodney Malone
- An evite will be sent to the parish to reply whether or not they will be attending service on the 15th. If someone does not reply, they will be called during the week to inquire. People will be able to pledge in advance of the 15th and on the day of the ingathering service.

Vestry and Delegate elections -

- St. John's (because of size) gets the minimum of 2 delegates. Two delegates have been decreased to 1, because the assessment is not paid by our parish. Dave Malek has been our delegate. In canon law, once one is a candidate for ordination, they can no longer serve as a lay delegate. He has since been removed from being our delegate. Lori Kintz (alternate) has moved up to be the voting delegate. Correne was elected as another alternate. She moves from jr alternate to sr alternate for the virtual diocesan convention in November. Determine Dave Malek's term and confirm Lori's commitment to serving as delegate. Alternates are appointed on a yearly basis, and the same person can be appointed year after year.
- We have four people finishing their three year terms on the Vestry. What is being proposed to get us back on track, is electing three new people for a three year term and one person for a two year term. John Eads moves to accept this recommendation to accept a two year term. Brent Brower-Toland seconds, and all say yes to accept this

recommendation. Deadline for nominations should be before the December Vestry meeting. Announcements should be made regarding the open election upcoming in January. Warren Crews will write an announcement for the eblast regarding interest and positions open for upcoming elections. (Senior warden is appointed by the clergy. Junior warden is elected at the first Vestry meeting of each new year.)

- Nominations committee: Anna Hall, Liam Clements, Ann Balsamo

Building & Grounds, Kevin McGrane -

- Grease Masters came to clean the hood and oven (both of which haven't been cleaned in several years). A parish member generously arranged and paid for this expense.
- New concrete steps will be poured going up to the parish office. A specific date is yet to be made, but will happen some time in November.
- Our sexton, Gary, has had some health issues and has delayed his work for two weeks. Kevin will be visiting with him and will determine how physically able he is to continue the work. Kevin has talked to other contractors to move forward with the projects, as well as painters. Many contractors are full through January, so parish members may be asked to help with work like painting.
- There are two women interested in renting the apartment upstairs. A new lease will be prepared for the upcoming tenants. There was a positive resolution to the previous tenant relationship. A walk through with the previous tenant was done with members of the B&G Committee to discuss some improvements to renting from St. John's.

Racial Justice Committee, John Eads -

- Thinking through an upcoming speaker series. Blake Shroad has been contacted from Arch City Defenders. The group is reaching out to people, and identifying other work areas. There will be a refocus from tangential goals to things surrounding civic engagement. Kurt, Kevin, and John will be meeting again to redefine goals as a committee. Ann Balsamo suggested the group read an article from the Post about educational disparities.

Christian Formation Committee, Brent Brower Toland -

- The committee met a couple of weeks ago. Parish members have had varying challenges with access to virtual meetings. Adults are having success online, but for other age groups, it has proved more difficult. The Young Adult meetings (prior to online) have been more social, which has been difficult in a virtual way. Moving down in age group, it gets increasingly difficult. The diocese had a brainstorming session about educational offerings, and the committee members are hoping to attend the upcoming meeting. The virtual option allows the churches to join offerings from other parishes. There were several interesting ideas about engaging younger children. One idea is putting together a pizza box full of activities for the season of Advent. There will be another Advent offering for adults as well. Sally mentioned the offering of Confirmation classes (for all over the age of 13) prior to Bishop Deon's visit in January.

Pandemic Task Force, Margarita Tschomakoff -

- Discovered there are many ways to track and present statistics regarding the pandemic, especially in a simplified way for anyone to read and understand. Margarita has created a graph of Confirmed Cases per week and Deaths per week for the City of St. Louis. She also shared the specific sources that she is using to collect statistics to count the spread of the virus. Other trends are being considered - positive rate, stats by zip code, total cumulative cases, etc. At this time, numbers are once again increasing, which is concerning. The data from March shows that we won't be returning to in person any time soon. Data will continue to be collected and another report will be discussed in November. Monitor other congregations that have already reopened and see how they have been navigating safety protocols.
- Use time after service on Sunday mornings to discuss statistics and reopening conversations. Involve the congregation with intentionality.

Parish Archiver, Margarita Tschomakoff -

- A lot of the work that Bryan Cather collected for years has not been located since his passing. She has been reaching out to people and libraries to recover information and documents.

Loose Ends

- The worship committee will meet together again soon to discuss upcoming Advent and Christmas.

Next Meeting - Sunday, November 22 @ 12:15 pm

Executive Meeting on November 18th @ 5:30 - Brent Brower-Toland will attend

Closing Prayer - Sally Weaver