

Vestry minutes: Jan. 7th, 2024

Present: Mike M. (chair), Rob L., Evelyn F., Zilla J., Donald M. (recused himself from preambulatory business), Ross S., Joan S., Karen K.B., Sandra B. (observer and minute taker), John K. (late, arrived during point 5)

Regrets: Shola O., Ritchie A.

1. Preambulatory business: Stipend for interim priest:

- Mike M. moved that the parish pay the interim priest (Donald McKenzie) the same rate as the outgoing priest. Motion seconded by Zilla J.
- Motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. Land acknowledgement and opening prayer given by Mike M.

3. Proposed agenda:

- Rob L. moved to accept, Karen K.B. seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Correspondence: Gail Parvin Hammerquist funds:

- Rob L. received a request for documentation on the Gail Parvin Hammerquist funds owed to Holy Trinity for the property study. This came from City's heritage planner (Rina Ricci), who requires specific documentation from us to provide these funds (ca. \$13,800).

5. Business arising from minutes: Bishop's office plan for ordained leadership:

- Mike K. caught the vestry up on the Bishop's movements around the direct appointment of Donald M. for a three-month term and the plan to directly appoint a different person for a five-year term.
- The candidate in question was not given any information about the realities of the parish's finances, building, or general viability.
- The candidate in question has a large family and would not be able to move their family mid-school year, so mid-summer would be the earliest possible start date if the position were to be accepted.
- Should the candidate not be interested, it was confirmed that Donald's contract is extendable.
- It was asked whether we could then ask the Bishop's for permission for the parish to start its own search. This option seemed to be preferred by all present.
- It was asked where the Bishop himself has been in all this, as the dealings have been primarily with the Executive Archdeacon.
- It was confirmed that we have the power to refuse to sign the candidate's letter should we not want them.

6. Building options:

- Options for the future around property partnerships and possible amalgamations were discussed

7. Financial update:

- The debt is significantly down to ca. \$240,000. The draft budget presented in December 2023 includes a plan to continue eliminating the debt.
- The topic of contributions to the diocese and the PWRDF to be discussed at the AGM, with the Finance Committee directed to create specific recommendations for consideration

Quote of the meeting: *"I read poems."* - Mike M. (defensively, during budget discussion)

8. Planning for the 2024 AGM: filling vestry positions:

- Positions to be filled:
 - People's warden (1 person, 1-year term)
 - Deputy people's warden (1 person, 1-year term)
 - Synod delegates (2 delegates and 1 alternate, 1-year terms)
 - Vestry members at large (4 members, 2-year terms).
 - Rob L. and Evelyn F. are both halfway through their 2-year terms.
- Karen K.B. brought up policies around serving in positions. Canon stipulates that three consecutive misses mean removal from the position. It was also suggested that members who have failed to adequately meet their responsibilities not be allowed to stand. Discussion ensued. It was suggested that nominees be given a description of the position with expectations made very clear, including meeting times. Donald M. will prepare an outline of expectations for distribution.
- Zilla J. proposed that in the case of elections, candidates provide justification in writing for their reasons and suitability for running (experience, background, history, commitment level, how well the role was fulfilled if previously elected, etc).
- Zilla J. made a motion to keep vestry meetings after services on Sunday, seconded by Karen K.B. Rob L. opposed, John K. abstained. Motion was passed.

9. Worship scheduling through Lent & Easter:

- Discussion began around extra services throughout Lent and Holy Week with consideration for the workload for the Chancel Guild, as well as some recent unkind treatment toward members of the Chancel Guild. Sandra B. and Donald M. to discuss with members of the Chancel Guild.

- The need to be considerate around the making decisions that result in extra work for unpaid volunteers was noted. Broader discussion was held around previous “kindness” policies on vestry and the need to look out for members of the community when this sort of treatment occurs.

10. Other business:

- Zilla J. asked why parishioners aren't holding funerals here. Donald M. spoke to this, talking about trends of using funeral homes over churches or following priests to current placements.

11. Minutes of this meeting: shared by Sandra B.

- Motion to accept minutes as read by Karen K.B., seconded by Evelyn F.
- Motion passed by unanimous vote.

12. Next vestry meeting: February 4th following the 10:30am service

Closing prayer: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen.

Adjournment