

Vestry Minutes **January 24, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Rev. Lisa, Stewart Abbot, Mark Johnson, Sarah LaMotte, Dorothy Sullivan, Judy Gregory, Jim DeMersseman, Andy Kitchell, Margaret Grant, Lisa Blank, Joe Butler and Linda Springer.

Excused: Bob Brunswig

Prayer

Opening Meditation by Margaret Grant.

A Maori version of the Lord's Prayer from the NZ BCP was read by all.

Visitor Recognition: Linda and Bernie Haley, Herrick Garnsey, Steve Teksten; Weston Kurz and Debi Armstrong from Dayspring Christian Academy

Correspondence: Stewart has received Katie Kinney's resignation from the position of Treasurer.

Additions to the Agenda:

Approve Consent Agenda: Motion by Margaret, seconded by Mark. Approved with one dissent – Andy.

Business

The Clerk of the Vestry position remains open. A Finance Committee position will also open. Stewart's name was drawn for doing the minutes.

Discussion:

Dayspring and the South Acreage: Weston Kurz and Debi Armstrong made a presentation and circulated a handout of Dayspring's current plans for expansion. They have negotiated access from the South with Generations church which will reduce drop off and pick up traffic from 20th Street. This also means that they are no longer seeking access through our parking lot. They are still interested in as much of our South acreage as possible, still planning a baseball field for the site. Questions and answers ensued, and Weston ended hoping that we might reconsider our previously declining to sell.

Following the departure of Weston and Debi, Steve Teksten made a presentation stating that he feels we might consider a long term lease of the acreage to Dayspring and presented a handout of possible lease elements. Clearly, we would not wish any building construction there if this were to happen. He feels it would allow the land to be useful to our neighbors without risking unknown use should Dayspring leave the site. We would also benefit from an income stream that we don't presently enjoy.

Gift Acceptance Policy: Judy advised that her group was meeting tomorrow for further discussion.

Building Use Policy: Finance Committee reviewed this and had no further recommendations. Limited discussion ensued regarding the need for a plan and fee schedule for regular users of the building and the mechanics of holding vs depositing a rental deposit as had been questioned by Rachel. The matter was tabled in deference to time for budget discussion being needed.

Decision:

Sarah LaMotte transition to Treasurer from Asst. Treasurer: as Katie has resigned and is moving to New Mexico. Motion by Stewart, second by Linda. Passed without dissent.

2023 Budget: Sarah presented the proposed budget for 2023, developed by Katie, Sarah, Rachel and Stewart – and accepted by Finance Committee on January 18th. Our pledges received totaled \$251,102 and the plate income for 2022 of \$103,420 was used for 2023. We received fewer pledges for 2023, but the total amount is somewhat higher than 2022.

Personnel savings are seen with Lynette's resignation from Youth Director, and not funding the hoped for Music Director position. The Diocesan contribution is kept at 8% of plate and pledge and the regional contribution is changed to ½% from a smaller, fixed amount in 2022. Outreach Commission is funded at their "essential" request keeping in mind their retained funds. Funding for Campus ministry is increased as we have had a more robust relationship.

Utilities and Facility Expense was increased to reflect electric and gas rate increases anticipated as well as the increase in Bright White's cost for once weekly cleaning (~\$37,000). Some discussion about hiring a Sexton for this amount ensued. Snow removal is \$550 per trip.

Office expense is relatively unchanged other than not budgeting for an audit as last year's "trading" audits with St. Aiden's worked well for both. Changes will be tried to decrease the paper and copier cost for weekly bulletins.

Ministry expense is reduced to reflect a plan for Youth Group to be run by Rev Lisa and volunteers and their retained funds. Welcome and Hospitality are lumped into Parish Life. It will be incumbent on us to be planning for sustainability as we make plans for youth group and our current volunteer organists. Jim proposes we start a Music Committee to start a "seed program" to move to a full-time music director/organist. Motion to table music discussion to another time by Mark, second by Joe. Passed.

Overall, this is a deficit budget of \$123,751 a presented. There is money in deferred revenue to cover this should giving not improve. Much of the money from the sale of the water share is in Deferred Revenue fund. It was pointed out that the deficit anticipated for 2023 is much lower than was anticipated for the 2022 budget. Herrick notes that our fixed expenses exceed our anticipated income and that more income is needed – "What can we do.....?" Lisa B reflects on the number of new households attending and new family activities are hopeful signs. Consensus is that while we are perhaps overstaffed for the church we are, we are staffed for the church we were, or wish to be. Cutting staff would risk losing the 3 key staff, including the Rector. Jim emphasizes that there is hope and joy and growth in the Parish.

Motion to approve the proposed 2023 Budget from Finance Committee, second by Lisa B. Passed with one dissent – Andy.

Reports

Treasurer: The December 2022 financial report was reviewed by Rev Lisa. December income was \$74,989 – pledge \$34,688, non-pledge \$40,301. Our anticipated income for 2022 was \$359,635 while our realized income for 2022 was \$406,259. Outreach was over for the year due to the percentage pledged to the Diocese. Utilities were almost \$9000 over budget. Ministry cost savings of ~\$8900 was noted. Miscellaneous expense overage was mostly due to the water attorney mandated by the Diocese. Overall deficit for 2022 was \$97,336, vs the anticipated deficit of \$246,943. This will be zeroed out by funds from Deferred Revenue.

Jr. Warden: Mark relates some frustration with the snow cleaners, especially around the entrances. He will have a conversation with them.

Sr. Warden: No further report

Rector: Rev. Lisa passed around a Pastoral Care brochure she has created to advise when to call the Priest and Parish Office. This will be at various places around the church and linked to in the Epistle and on the website. She heard no grumblings about the bulletin change this past Sunday. Newcomers continue to come with 5 new households seen 2 Sundays ago. A newcomer's event is planned for February 26. She has written greetings to all these families. She is heartened by all this new energy. A student from Campus Ministry will be the guest preacher on February 5. The Annual Meeting is February 12 with a single service, meeting and chili cook off to follow. Shrove Tuesday needs to be planned for February 21. "Holy Commotion" service for young families returns January 29, in the Chapel. This to be monthly. We will do Lenten soup suppers and program.

Closing:

Stewart thanked Andy, Dorothy and Joe for their service to the Vestry as they rotate off. Dorothy related how thankful she is for the service given to the Parish by all of the Vestry.

Our Cultural moment was presented by Stewart with a reading of "The Panther" by Ogden Nash. Expressions of Faith from the Northumbria Community was said by all and a Blessing was offered. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Stewart Abbot
Senior Warden