

4.26.22 Vestry Minutes

Mtr. Tracy Wells Miller, Win Fernald, Jon Showalter, Alliee DeArmond, Nancy Shephard, Kathy Butler, Joanna Phillips, Chris Rowen, Debra Spencer (notes)

Guests: Susan Von Schmacht, Jim Von Schmacht, Betsey Crandall

Win led us in prayer and formation.

Consent Agenda:

Win moved and Kathy seconded the motion to approve (a) the March 15 Vestry minutes and (b) the appointment of the Discernment Steering Committee--Rick Becton, Tom Butler, Eliza Linley, Maritza Medina, Joan Valor, Antonette Wood (vestry rep)--who will work with consultant Linda Buskirk. The motion passed unanimously (8 yes).

Decisions:

Cub Scout Pack Charter: Jim, Susan, and Betsy, who plan to work on behalf of the parish in the guidance of the pack, all said they have met parents looking for a pack. Jim said the pack would be a "family pack" to include girls and boys in separate dens. Jim said the pack will be tremendous outreach for the church and have a good impact on the community. Jon asked an insurance question and Jim said he will call the council to find the answer. Alliee moved that we move forward with chartering the Cub Scout pack; Kathy seconded. The motion passed unanimously (8 yes). Mtr. Tracy urged the vestry to read the agreement (sent previously by email, also with a link in the chat at this meeting) and send concerns to her. Jim gave an example of an insurance case and said they don't happen often. Susan also invited the vestry's questions and concerns.

Outreach Committee Charge: Jon shared the charge agreed on by the committee. After reviewing email comments from the vestry, the committee decided not to change the charge. Alliee felt that the charge reflected pet projects of the committee and didn't address what outreach parishioners may already be doing. She disagreed with the implication that the committee would only donate to non-profit organizations, because what about individuals who want to start an outreach project. Alliee was disappointed that she couldn't meet with Michael Hudson, who was due to chair the next Outreach meeting. She felt that the committee is not relevant to the parish at large and should be. Win agreed. He thought engaging the parish should be part of the charge. Jon defended the language of the charge as already conveying parish engagement. Alliee suggested a rewording, which Jon wrote down. Chris felt it is important for us to have an organization to take responsibility for outreach; it's understandable that Outreach members have projects they're passionate about, but then anyone can join the committee or suggest ideas for outreach. Jon felt that Win's rewording was redundant. Win moved to amend the charge by adding a sentence, which Jon wrote down. Debra seconded. Jon moved to end debate but was not seconded. Alliee agreed with Jon that her sentence was redundant and withdrew it. We voted on Win's amendment and it passed, 6 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention. Alliee moved adding that the committee will investigate and support existing parish outreach (Jon typed the exact words). Mtr. Tracy seconded. Jon protested that he thought this would be a huge task, beyond the scope of the committee, and those who suggested it should come to help. Kathy agreed that people doing outreach already should join the committee. Win recalled that Nan Fitch and Julie Fudge frequently asked for support from the parish. Jon agreed with that method and noted that the committee lost steam without Nan and Julie (now deceased) and the members want to get back to involving the parish. Suggestions were made to "investigate and support" and "publicize" parish outreach activities so we all know what we're doing individually and collectively. Alliee suggested "communicate" rather than "publicize." Chris said he was wary of collecting all outreach activities in one committee, and Jon objected that things were being put on the committee that they haven't thought of doing. Mtr. Tracy said investigating, publicizing, and supporting could be done with a yearly survey, and that putting these things on the committee could give them direction. The motion to reword (as Jon typed it in) passed, 4 yes, 3 no, 1 abstention. Mtr. Tracy moved to remove mention of South Sudan in the charge, as being too specific and already included in the more general part of the charge. This passed also, 5 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention. The vote to approve the charge as amended passed, 7 yes, 1 no.

Treasurer's Report:

- Nelson answered Kathy's question about Shrove Tuesday (it appears in Holy Days rather than Events). Sometimes money appears in different categories. Nelson asked Kathy to forward him the emails from Antonette in re St. Patrick's Day earnings and he'll talk to bookkeeper Tiana.
- There was some anxiety about 2021 pledges, but many were completed in January 2022. Nelson will follow up later. Some people evidently clicked the wrong box on Realm and misposted their pledge. Tiana is working on this.
- We're in good shape in terms of cash.
- Mtr. Tracy noted that if people are tracking their pledges on Realm, it's been disabled during conversion/transfer, and the correct pledge amounts will be posted on Realm eventually.
- The Finance Committee is learning a lot during the conversion process from QuickBooks to Realm.
- Win asked about the \$15,000 and Mtr. Tracy said it's the donation we received in February.
- Nelson said costs of utilities have gone up, so they're over budget--by a few hundreds, not thousands.

Vestry and Team Goals Reviewed:

Vestry Goals 2022

- Implement a "Come Back Plan"--begun and ongoing
- Discern present and future campus use and development--begun and ongoing
- Develop conversations and collect ideas for use of the Community Project Fund--some discussion has taken place in the Outreach Committee but not much elsewhere
- Assess and improve lay ministry and retention plans

Win: LEVs have been trained and are ready to go

Alliee: People invited to help with St. Patrick's Day dinner and the Garden of Repose

Mtr. Tracy: Admin Team not yet begun on this goal; Admin and Internal should collaborate?

Jon: Seems to be a hole here--no one responsible or in charge of recruiting

Win: Church model out; Discernment Steering Committee appointed, have worked on space use

Internal Team Goals 2022

- Start up coffee hour again by March--done
- Recreate hospitality committee--in progress
- Plan and hold events to bring us together--begun and ongoing
- Connect with all internal ministry leaders--begun and ongoing
- Acknowledge people for their contributions and ministry to our community--begun and ongoing

External Team Goals 2022

- Raise visibility of Helpful Shop with parishioners to recruit volunteers and raise the general role of the Helpful Shop in our mission--team has ideas but need to find people to implement them; some software problems cleared up
- Increase reports to the parish and make them more thorough--up to Diane, who knows the numbers
- Educate ourselves on outreach activities--not begun yet

- Understand and help leadership energy and continuity--not begun yet
- Support process for developing Community Outreach Fund process--discussion begun
- Stand ready to support the ACYP, which runs itself and communicates for itself--ongoing

Admin Team Goals 2022

- Help orchestrate communication about different parts and pieces of the "Come Back Plan."--begun, ongoing
- Follow up with Architecture & Space Use Committee about assessing current space use-- begun?
- Reconvene COVID Task Force--begun, ongoing
- Oversee process of launching Discernment Steering Committee to work with consultant Linda Buskirk--Committee appointed, Linda notified
- Get 3D model of original building concept out of storage and set it up in the cafe area to spark interest and conversation in the parish--model set up; conversation sparked?
- Encourage Outreach Committee to work on developing policies and procedures for approving uses of the Community Project Fund, as delegated to it by the vestry in January 2021--ongoing
- Help with structural aspects of lay ministry & retention plan implementation: explore how Realm software can be used to support our work, write up procedures as they develop.--not yet

Next goals review will be in July.

Information:

- Yard Sale on Saturday needs help with setting things out, selling things, bringing snacks, and, eventually, removing unsold items from site. Jon is coordinating; contact him.
- Bishop's visit for May 22 not included in diocesan announcement. Mtr. Tracy will check with them.
- Diocesan Spring Renewal is online again due to Covid; April 29-30
- Andy Carter, music ministry, is on vacation June 2-23.

Report Out to the Parish:

- We voted to move forward with chartering a Cub Scout Pack, with the help of Susan Von Schmacht, Jim Von Schmacht, and Betsy Crandall.
- We appointed the Discernment Steering Committee--Rick Becton, Tom Butler, Amma Eliza Linley, Maritza Medina, Joan Valor, and vestry rep Antonette Wood--to work with our consultant, Linda Buskirk.
- We approved the Outreach Committee charge, with a few changes, below (in case attachment doesn't work):

Outreach Committee Charge

4/26/2022

Purpose:

The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to facilitate St. John's, in the whole and individual parishioners, to serve outside the church walls.

Membership:

Any parishioner with an interest in serving the larger world is welcome as a member of the Outreach Committee. The position of Committee Chair will rotate among committee members. At the first meeting of a calendar year, a schedule of committee chairs shall be determined. The Chair for a particular month is responsible for seeing that any work required due to committee decisions is carried out in a timely manner.

Meeting Frequency:

The committee will meet at least nine times per year.

Role and Function:

1. Allocate to non-profits organizations with a record of fiscal responsibility funds provided for outreach in the general budget by the vestry. Particular attention will be for national and international needs, and with notice and justification to the congregation of choices made.

2. Engage the parish in outreach ministries.

3. Research, educate and motivate parishioners concerning needs beyond the church to which they may wish to contribute individually or as a group with particular attention to national and international needs.

4. Organize work and/or funding for projects undertaken outside the parish.

5. Develop parish procedures re: the spending of The Community Project Fund when the vestry designates such to the committee.

6. Investigate and communicate about the outreach efforts of parishioners in their lives and work.

- We reviewed our progress on the vestry and team goals for the year.
- Neighborhood Yard Sale this Saturday! Helpers are needed for our part in it. Please contact Jon Showalter if you can help or bring snacks.

Vestry Meeting Evaluation

Covered a lot, no one got as mad as God (see Exodus), made decisions, moved along, good energy

Win prayed Ephesians 4.32 (attribution supplied by Alliee). Debra suggested we have a Name that Scripture fundraiser.

We adjourned at 8:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Spencer