

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING
MINUTES
January 26, 2023

Present: Senior Warden-Marlo Pratt, Junior Warden-George LeBlanc, Treasurer-David Brierley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Lee Ferreira, Rita Verespy, Matt Spohn, Julie Zecher, John Corbishley, and the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

Present via Zoom: Ann Wood

Absent: Peter Collins, Ray Edler, and Richard Updegrove

Jennifer called the meeting to order at 6:03 with a prayer and then we had a celebration in honor of our retiring Vestry members: Julie Zecher, Matt Spohn and Peter Collins (*in absentia*).

Jennifer asked two questions –

1. What have you learned during your years on the Vestry?
2. What was the most important thing we have done while you have been a vestry member?

Here are some of the comments that were made during this open discussion.

- There was general agreement that one of the most important accomplishments was the completion of the historic church renovation.
- Our outdoor worship – done for survival during COVID – but something that has morphed into an important part of our summer worship.
- The outdoor worship shell.
- We stayed faithful and stayed a church during COVID. We even grew!
- Julie called our campus a “holy energy vortex.” People are drawn here.
- Our leaders are committed and faithful and generous.
- John offered the idea that under Jennifer’s guidance we have prospered. She has an ability to work within a framework that allows leaders and leadership to thrive.
- We looked back on the incredible work of the Moving Forward Task Force, which met every single week during the pandemic, and kept the “holy energy vortex” moving forward!
- We are a heartspace on the island.
- Going forward – how do we use our gifts to bring people to God and into our heartspace?

Associated Rector’s Job Description – Jennifer

Jennifer shared her written job description, which is a bit unconventional, as it begins with a narrative of where we are as a church. This is important as it puts the position into a context. Vestry priorities and duties and responsibilities for the position are also included. David B. and Jennifer will put together the “nitty-gritty” part of the description, which will include pay, benefits, etc. We are looking for an experienced priest for this position.

Jenifer discussed the process. While the Vestry calls the Rector, the Rector calls all the rest of the staff. However, Jennifer does want the Vestry to confirm her choice. The Bishop also needs to sign-off on the choice and the timeline for announcing the decision.

Vestry Nominations – Julie Z.

Julie first described the process that the Nominating Committee had followed, and then shared the names they are nominating for Vestry members: Lauren Lema, Alex Simmons and Cory Thurston Lallo.

The Nominating Committee is still working to find one more Vestry nomination, to fill Ray Edler's unexpired two-year term, and delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

Stewardship Update – Rita V.

Rita presented a written report. There are still 13 active members who pledged last year who have still not turned in pledge cards. Rita will let Jennifer know who these folks are, in case Jennifer knows of some pastoral issues that need to be taken into account.

There seems to be some issue with folks who contribute via Venmo and do it steadily but do not fill out pledge cards. Also, Church Windows can be a complicated software to manage. Christine Winslow and Rita are working the issue.

Invite, Welcome, Connect – Lee F.

Lee presented a progress report from IWC and their efforts in behalf of children and families.

- Convenient parking spaces for families with young children have been designated and signage added.
- We continue to have children's bulletins available at the worship service.
- A second focus group has been scheduled with Jason DeFalco leading.
- There is a Family Section in our weekly enews.
- We are discussing two possibilities: Sunday School and Parent Partners.
- Dave B. reminded us that anyone working or volunteering to work with children needs to have completed Safe Church Training.

Vestry Retreat – Marlo

The Vestry Retreat is scheduled for February 24th and 25th.

Friday 5:30	Dinner and Social Time
7:00-9:00	Retreat content

Saturday 9:00-12:00	Retreat content
12:30 – 3:00	Lunch and Vestry meeting

Cathy Tyndal Boyd will be our retreat leader. Jennifer said that our goals for this retreat are to deepen spiritual friendships, provide spiritual nourishment for our leaders and to take a look at what we have been given here and to start to look at our future.

Junior Warden Update – George L.

- The solar light is up in the lower parking lot. George and Jon are going to put some more of these lights up.
- New lightning rods will be installed toward the end of January.
- The alarm in the historic church is going to be hard-wired.
- A new AC unit will be installed in Gibbs House in February

George asked if Diocesan solar energy project was still in process. Dave B. said the Diocesan target date is still sometime in 2023.

Consent Agenda

John C. made a motion, seconded by Rita V., that we pass the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Vestry Minutes and Treasurer's Report for December 2022. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson