

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING
MINUTES
July 25, 2024

Present: Senior Warden-Richard Updegrove, Junior Warden-John Corbishley, Treasurer-David Brierley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Lauren Lema, Jason DeFalco, Jerry Culver, Sarah Barker, Alex Simmons, David Burke, Associate Rector Meaghan Brower, and the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

Absent: Cory Thurston and Rita Verespy

Attending via Zoom: Anne Wood

The Rector opened the meeting at 6:03 with a prayer.

Reconnecting with each other in the presence of God – Meaghan

Meaghan read an excerpt from *Every Moment Holy* by Douglas McKelvey. The vestry discussed what we have valued this summer and what we are looking forward to.

Rector's Report – Jennifer P.

Rectory Renovation

Thus far we have received one bid, and we are waiting for a second. While we have funds on hand, including a gift given specifically for this project, we are going to have to do some additional fund raising.

The vestry agreed that the rectory is a major asset for St. Mary's. Adequate stewardship for this building is essential.

Richard Updegrove made a motion, seconded by David Brierley, that the vestry give preliminary approval to \$275,000 for the rectory renovation, and approve spending some of the money already on hand to cover the cost of deposits that are required to enable the project to move forward. This motion passed unanimously.

Richard Updegrove made a motion, seconded by John Corbishley that up to \$75,000 from the existing surplus and gifts already received be allocated to fund costs of initial deposits for this project. This motion passed unanimously.

John C. will manage this project as it goes forward.

The formal contract will be awarded in August. Talking points need to be crafted so that all vestry members can speak knowledgeably if questioned. Rick and Jennifer will work on this and begin strategizing fundraising.

Sabbatical

Jennifer is going to take a sabbatical from September 2nd through November 29th, 2024. The planned sabbatical is in accordance with the Rector's Letter of Agreement, and Diocesan guidelines. The Bishop and Rich Updegrave, senior warden, have approved this plan.

During this sabbatical the Associate Rector, Meaghan Brower, will be Priest in charge, and will receive support and assistance from the Rev. Stephanie Shoemaker and lay professional, Brian Litzenberger.

Richard Updegrave made a motion seconded by John Corbishley that the sabbatical plan for Jennifer be approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous

- The Choir School of Newport County's contract has been reviewed, revised, and accepted.
- There will be a calendar meeting of all concerned with programming, etc., on Wednesday, August 21st at 2:00 p.m.
- Staff annual reviews will be conducted over the next two weeks.

Associate Rector's Report – Meaghan B.

Fruits of the Spirit

This summer series is really going well. There are LOTS of people helping, so the burden is not too great for any one. We have welcomed lots of guests.

Christian Formation

St. Mary's has formed a Christian formation team, led by Jason DeFalco, to explore possibilities. The committee has begun by raising up the formation we are already doing, but not naming it as such.

Junior Warden – John C.

St. Mary's is going through a learning period, adjusting to our new responsibilities vis a vis the churchyard.

David Brierley asked about charging Jon's time spent around burials to the actual funeral budget.

Senior Warden – Rick U.

Budget Task Force

Rick has formed a Budget Task Force, consisting of Rick, John C., David Brierley, David Burke, Murry, and Rita V. Their charge is to review, refine and establish a budget process to serve as a guideline for future vestrys. They will also review individual line items and refine them as well. Their first meeting is next week.

Consent Agenda

Rick U. made a motion, seconded by David Brierley, that we pass the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Stewardship Report, Minutes and Treasurer's Report for June 2024. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m. by saying The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie E. Gustafson
Clerk