

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING
MINUTES
November 21, 2024

Present: Junior Warden-John Corbishley, Treasurer-David Brierley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Jason DeFalco, Jerry Culver, Cory Thurston, David Burke, Sarah Barker, and Associate Rector Meaghan Brower

Present via Zoom: Anne Wood

Absent: Senior Warden-Richard Updegrove, Rita Verespy, Lauren Lema, and Alex Simmons

Meaghan opened the meeting by reading *A Thanksgiving Blessing* by Kate Bowler, and then asking vestry members to share and say thank-you for a gift of God in their lives.

Associate Rector's Report – Meaghan

Meaghan expressed many thanks for Brian, his support and especially the class he has been offering this month. Thanks also went out to Stephanie and staff members, Karen and Jon for their help and support while Jennifer was on sabbatical.

Jennifer will be back for the November 30th service, and the vestry is sponsoring a special coffee hour on Sunday, after the 10:00 a.m. service. Plans for the coffee hour and the Advent wreath making are well in hand.

Junior Warden – John C.

The walls are primed! And the floors will be going down shortly. Progress is being made. We are still approximately a month behind and cabinets will not arrive until just before Christmas. Hopefully most of the work will be done by the end of January. We are on budget so far.

Treasurer – David Brierley

Tuck Fund – Murray has been deep in research around the beginnings and restrictions on the Tuck Fund – the fund we use currently for scholarships. She has discovered that the money that is listed as belonging to the Tuck Fund, was never actually or officially designated as such. This discovery may have repercussions for future labelling and budgeting. All of this will be discussed in detail, once Jennifer returns.

David Burke asked how much of the fund would be required to support the scholarships being given out? This is something to ascertain.

Budget for 2025 – David handed out a draft budget and reviewed it. There was discussion on what would be a prudent percentage to withdraw from our endowment. The Diocese does have some guidelines on this – which we think is 7%?

This draft budget has built into it a 7% draw on the endowment, but David Brierley asserted that this percentage is not to be considered a trend, and we do not intend to draw this much from the endowment in future years. David Brierley will communicate to the Investment Committee and the Van Lew folks what our needs will be for next year.

A brief discussion was held on passing the plate at worship. It was hoped that the Worship Committee and the Greeters would discuss this issue once Jennifer returns. Some points made were -

- There is something to be said for visibly showing giving. Evidently St. Columba's uses some form of laminated card for those who give online or monthly, etc. That way, all gifts are brought to the altar and blessed.
- The QR code on the bulletin should be a bit more obvious, and perhaps repeated in the Offertory section.

Executive Session –

David Brierley made a motion, seconded by Jason D. that the vestry move into executive session. The motion passed.

Executive Session

David Brierley made a motion, seconded by Jason D., that the vestry come out of executive session. The motion passed.

Consent Agenda

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10, with Meaghan saying "Go in peace, to love and served the Lord."

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie E. Gustafson
Clerk