

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the St. David's Vestry
December 19, 2023

Members present: Senior Warden Ann Jinkins, Junior Warden Jennifer Scariano, Treasurer Merrell Anne Shearer, Clerk Jim Norman, Sandi Boone, Bess Carsner, John Crow, Peni Ellis, Gay Gillen, Allison Marshall, Rick Patrick, Alison Riemersma, Joe Sanchez, and George Zwicker.

Participating via Zoom teleconference: Pastor Angela Cortiñas and Phillip Owen.

Clergy and staff present: Rev. Dr. Chuck Treadwell (Rector), Rev. Kristin Braun, and Jim Lamm.

Meeting began at 6:30 PM.

Fr. Chuck led the group in the first half of Compline.

Review of Minutes from Last Vestry Meeting

The Vestry made a few edits to the draft minutes from the November meeting and approved the minutes as amended.

Finance Committee Report – presented by Merrell Anne

Everything having to do with the historic sanctuary renovation should be paid off by the end of the year. The final balance of the construction loan will be \$ \$1,844,680.75 (with final draw on 12/22/23 of \$400K).

Pledges at the end of November were behind last year by about \$25,000, or 11%. We are behind on pledge income by about 15%. Hospitality has generated \$260,774.36 in gross revenues so far this year, surpassing budgeted revenue for hospitality by 20%. "Other income" includes deposits from oil and gas contracts and a dividend from Texas Mutual Insurance. Total revenues at the end of November are behind budget by just under 4%.

A subcommittee of the Finance Committee has been meeting to work on the 2024 budget. Changes made from this year's budget include increased income from hospitality; a new facilities item of \$20,000 for new pieces for a temporary staging, to be paid over 2+/- years from Hospitality rental fees; a \$15,000 line item for landscaping, requested by the new Landscape Committee; and the deletion of income from the Cruise EV (electric vehicle) charges, due to Cruise ceasing operations. The draft 2024 budget in its current form has a deficit of \$318,000,

but that's down from \$503,000. The committee is still working on fine-tuning the proposed budget.

Jim Lamm added that Cruise recently invoked its 30-day notice option with Metropolis to end its contract to rent EV charging spaces in the garage. [Problems with self-driving cars have proliferated this year, bringing the industry to a self-driving, screeching halt.] Cruise will pay for parking through January 2024. However, Cruise has not given St. David's notice regarding the EV chargers' agreement. Jim Lamm is working with Lowell Keig, Chancellor, to request that Cruise leave the EV chargers in place and "donate" them to St. David's. St David's would then have Shell Oil set up the pay app for public use so St. David's can charge for charging (like paying for gas) like we do for the one charger Cruise already donated to the church.

The Junior Warden's Report – presented by Jennifer Scariano

- Almost all punch list items in the historic sanctuary renovation have been resolved.
- Video control console is now installed.
- One data cable that was not installed properly has been fixed.
- One camera component of the new audio-visual equipment needs to be relocated.
- The tabernacle was recently damaged but has been repaired and reinstalled.
- Baptismal font has been professionally cleaned.
- Two new cameras and fencing have been installed in playground.
- Over the Christmas break, SpawGlass is painting the first-floor hallway and other areas.
- Fire inspection – the school and rest of the entire building passed the inspection needed for the day school.
- The Art and Treasures Committee met to discuss what to do with things that were removed from the sanctuary during the renovation and that we have decided will not be returned.

Rector's Report – Presented by Fr. Chuck

- Marathon Sunday Feb 18, 2024 – services will be moved to later in the afternoon and followed by a social gathering for the entire parish.
- Year of discernment (2024) – the book we will read will be *Discernment* by Henri Nouwen, and the Crail C lectures will be sourced from the BCP's Ash Wednesday Invitation to Lent (pp. 264–265). We hope that the Year of Discernment undertaking and Project 32 will intersect by the summer or early fall. We will teach the congregation how to listen for the voice of the holy in our lives. During the fifty days of Easter, we will ask the leaders of all small groups to discern and listen to God in their groups. By the

summer, we should have a sense of what we as individuals and as a community are hearing for what God is calling us to do. The church staff has also been working on ideas, such as:

- Create space to listen, not just talk about listening
- The tension between healthy life balance for staff and creating new initiatives that for staff turn into more work
- Abbey Annual Report/Update – the report is included in the meeting materials. The Abbey experienced a lot of growth this year; most participants in the Abbey are not our own parishioners.

Old/New Business

- Thoughts about the bishop’s comments during the last meeting – members discussed their impressions:
 - Christmas music and concerts are important and meaningful.
 - St. David’s as more of a suburban church than a “downtown” church.
 - “Hosting” events as simply providing venues vs. as ministering to Christ in others – this was felt to be a high point of the bishop’s comments.
 - Clergy time – Bishop Doyle mentioned how he sees clergy in successful parishes spending their time, with a focus on teaching newcomers and the laity in general.
 - Smaller classes and events are an opportunity to introduce people to the church in a more intimate setting that may be more effective than larger events; hosting smaller events would be worth doing. Ex: English as a second language.
 - Need to keep in mind why we’re doing the many activities we do—should be about ministry. Members noted that the bishop encouraged conscious acknowledgement of Jesus in our ministry and keeping Him top of mind.
- Approval of Karen Milton and Sue Carter as Eucharistic Visitors – a motion was made and approved to accept Karen and Sue as EVs.
- Vestry 2024 members – the outgoing vestry members discussed their talks with parishioners who may be interested in joining the Vestry next year.
- Officers for 2024 – Fr Chuck announced that George Zwicker has agreed to be senior warden next year and encouraged the rest of the Vestry to volunteer for open positions.
- World Music Encounters – these concerts, held in the historic sanctuary, are still ongoing and very successful and enjoyable. The next event will be Ibrahim Aminou and Seed Africa on January 7.

Upcoming Dates

- World Music Encounters: January 7, 2024, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
- Next Finance Committee: January 17, 2024, 6:00 pm
- Next Exec Committee: January 17, 2024, 7:00 pm
- Next Vestry Meeting: January 23, 2024, 6:30 pm
- Annual parish meeting: January 28, 2024, 10:15 am
- Vestry meeting: January 28, 2024, following the parish meeting
- Vestry retreat: March 1–3, 2024

Fr Chuck led the group in Compline's closing prayers, and the meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Norman

Clerk