

ST. PAUL'S VESTRY MEETING MINUTES



Date: August 17, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm (In-Person at St. Paul's)

In Attendance:

Rev. Sarah Hurlbert, Rev. Melissa Congleton, Debbie Batchelder, Eric Magnusson, Dennis Marsh, Jan Osborn, Barney Rudolph, Elaine Themm, Romelle Frey, and James Grant.

Absent: Dana Burkey & Treasurer Marco Shehab.

The meeting began at 6:31 pm with an opening prayer by Rev. Sarah.

Approval of Minutes & Consent Agenda:

The July 2021 Vestry meeting minutes were submitted for review and approval. A correction was made: *In attendance "The Reverend Melissa Congleton" (no longer title of "Deacon").*

A motion was made by Debbie to accept the revised minutes, seconded by Dennis. Motion Passed.

The motion to approve the Consent Agenda was passed as well.

Rev. Sarah asked the question of the Vestry members: "How are you feeling about the Delta Variant and wearing masks?" Vestry members answered & discussed. The majority are in favor of wearing masks at church and several members advised they are nervous about the rising infection rates in the county. Jackson county is currently "yellow", and it was discussed that should we go to orange or red, another conversation may need to be had. It was also mentioned that we need to continue to make sure ushers are filling out attendance checklists on Sunday mornings for contact tracing purposes.

Finance & Budget Report:

Treasurer Marco was not in attendance, so Pastor Sarah displayed this month's financial statements for the Vestry to review. It was noted that pledge contributions are ahead of last year's, but non-pledge donations are down due to the offering plate not being passed. Since there were no questions, a motion was made by Jan to accept the financial statements as presented, with a 2nd by Barney. Motion Passed.

New Business – 2022 Apportionment Pledge

Rev. Sarah asked that this year's pledge to the Diocese be approved. She explained that it is an average of the last three years of income received (but does not include Covid Relief funds). It is tabulated by the Diocesan treasurer. **Q:** Romelle asked how it compares to prior years? **A:** It is up from prior years because our average contributions have been up for the last three years. A motion was made by Debbie to approve the 2022 apportionment pledge with a 2nd by Romelle. Motion passed.

H.R. Staffing Questions

A new Human Resources committee has been created. The members are Debbie Batchelder, Joe Lathrop, Michelle Gibson and Tom Holsinger-Friesen. It will not be a monthly committee, it will meet as needed and work with Rev. Sarah to address H.R. and staffing issues. They are currently trying to track down previous contracts in order to work towards a contract for our organist Julie and hope to have an update for the next vestry meeting.

Lay Delegates to 2021 Diocesan Convention:

This year's convention is the third weekend of October. Jan pointed out that delegates from St. Paul's were elected at our annual meeting in January. Delegates from St. Paul's are Jan Osborn, Dana Burkey and Dennis Marsh. (Alternate - James Grant.)

Question: Rev. Sarah asked, "What would you like to do during our time together besides tasks? "

(Would you like to do anything different spiritually? How do you feel about the Indaba Bible Studies that we have been doing?) A brief discussion followed, with the consensus being that members enjoyed the Indaba Bible Studies and would like to continue doing them. Because previous meetings were on Zoom it was sometimes hard to gage the response. Having copies of the Bible passages to be discussed are helpful also, so people can really digest the words.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be the Vestry retreat to be held on **Saturday, September 18th** at the W.K. Kellogg Conference Center and Manor House in Battle Creek. The Rev. Canon Ellen Ekevag will be leading discussions as to what ministries we want to focus on this liturgical year and in what direction we want to grow. Rev. Sarah noted that any agenda items that come up before the next regular meeting in October (budget, contract for Julie, etc.) can be handled via email.

Additional comments/conversation:

- It's nice that attendance is up, both in-person and online. More people are finding us online and "liking" and "following us" on Facebook.
- Koinonia meetings are back and being enjoyed. People have missed in-person gatherings.
- Barney reminded everyone of the annual fellowship picnic at Sally's that Friday evening.
- Will there be a church service at Clark Lake this year? Rev. Sarah advised that she is checking into it, and if we can't do it there, we can look at holding it at another park or venue. *(Note: Since the meeting on 8/17, plans have been made to have a church service and picnic at Clark Lake on Sunday, September 12th .)*

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Sarah at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Alice Mulhearn, Vestry Secretary