

ST. PAUL'S VESTRY MEETING MINUTES



Date: June 15, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm (Via Zoom)

In Attendance:

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

Absent: Marco Shehab

The meeting began at 6:35 pm with an opening prayer by Rev. Sarah.

Approval of Minutes & Consent Agenda:

The May 2021 Vestry meeting minutes were submitted for review and approval.

The motion was made by Debbie Batchelder to accept them, with a 2nd by Dennis Marsh. Motion Passed.

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

Holy Question: "How do you recharge yourself?" Vestry members answered & discussed.

Finance & Budget Report:

Treasurer Marco was not in attendance, but Rev. Sarah screen-shared this month's finance reports and asked for questions. Barney asked a question regarding the "Food Truck Purchase" line item. Rev. Sarah explained that it is blank on page 3 of the expense statement because it was not purchased with church funds. There were 5 donors from the community who gave money to buy it, which is why it shows as a "restricted fund" line item on page 1 of the income statement. In exchange for us helping to find donors to purchase the food truck for Big Guy Catering, they have agreed to donate a meal/feed a community group once per month in our name. We were advised by the diocesan treasurer on how to create a line item for a limited time for the accounting of this purchase. The motion was made by Barney Rudolph to accept this month's financial reports with Dana as 2nd. Motion Passed.

Marco is asking for a cash disbursement of \$75,000 for our checking account to cover expenses for the general fund. Debbie forwarded the email with this request to the Vestry. Rev. Sarah asked if a motion could be made to fulfil this request. Dennis made the motion with Debbie as 2nd. Motion passed.

Building & Grounds:

- **Boiler Update** - Rev. Sarah advised that she is still in conversations with Kyle regarding bids on heat & A/C for the sanctuary. We still need info on just that project since we are not ready for the Phase 3 construction project. Hopefully, we can take the issue up at the next vestry meeting in July.
- **Floor machine update** - Secretary Alice informed the group that two floor machines have been purchased for the church. After several demos and looking at specs from two companies, for what was budgeted we were able to purchase two floor scrubbers. We purchased a large walk behind scrubber for Holy Spirit Hall and the back hallways, and a smaller portable one that can be taken upstairs, in the kitchen, bathrooms, and even clean between the pews in the sanctuary. This will free up our sexton Terry to cut back on hours spent mopping the floors. Both scrubbers are scheduled to be delivered in about a week and the company will train us on running them and maintenance.

Next, Rev. Sarah led an Indaba Bible Study and discussion of Mark 4:26-28.

New Business:

Updated COVID-19 Protocols from The Diocese of Michigan: What should be our next steps in opening & what do we need to restart? Do we need to do an afternoon retreat for Vestry or start in-person meetings again? Rev. Sarah asked everyone to think and pray about this and the other questions in her Rector's Report.

A discussion followed of Phase 3 of the Plan for Re-Entry for Great Lakes Episcopalians (effective July 1, 2021, with the first Sunday being July 4th).

- **Masks:** What will be the new protocol? Barney was of the opinion that it should be a personal decision. Other members provided their input, and it was decided that we will put up signs suggesting masks be worn, but that they are not mandatory if vaccinated.
- Vestry members advised that they would like to keep every other pew blocked off (as it is now) for social distancing. We will not have a special section for those who are unvaccinated as that would isolate and segregate them from the rest of the congregation. Cushions will be put back, as will hymnals, bibles and prayer books also.
- We do not need deep cleaning/disinfecting between services, Terry does a good job of wiping down surfaces and cleaning regularly already.
- As a precaution we still need contact tracing, Alice will continue to print our attendance roster.
- We will continue to live-stream our service on Facebook for those who still prefer to worship at home. Rev. Sarah advised that we need to start adding a fee for technology. We want to be able to provide this service for funerals, weddings, etc., but we need to offset costs.
- Can we pull up the blue tape on the floor for physical distancing? Yes.
- **The Peace and Offertory:** We will reinstate the "Noisy Offering", but the offering plate will not be passed. We will continue to keep the offering plate in the back of the church. After discussion, it was decided that there will be no passing of the peace so people will not feel pressured to touch others. Pastor Sarah said we need to practice "bodily autonomy" and ask first before handshakes or hugging.
- **Space for vulnerable parishioners:** Do we need this? It was decided that since no one has asked for this that those who don't feel safe coming to in-person worship will stay home and worship online. We can address this later if needed.
- **Eucharist:** It will continue to be wafers only.

- Coffee Hour/food: Per diocesan protocols, there are still no self-serve buffets allowed. We will continue to use our kitchen manager/caterer's services to help with providing individual servings of snacks for coffee hour. Debbie asked if they could also provide the desserts for coffee hour instead of the parishioners? Pastor Sarah advised that food from home is allowed, it just has to have a server passing it out.
- Other groups and small meetings? These should be ok because they can use larger spaces like Holy Spirit Hall if distancing is needed. For example, Toastmasters and the Get Real Program are starting back up in July. Church School and nursery will hopefully be able to start back in the fall. For now all youth activities have been mostly outside, although a movie night in Holy Spirit Hall is being planned for July.
- Zoom Adult Forum & Bible Study: What do folks want? Maybe need to find out from attendees what will continue to work for them. Pastor Sarah would like Wednesday Bible Study to return to in-person for those who have issues with hearing the discussion online, but continue to provide it on Zoom also.

Pastor Sarah asked for a recap of decisions made so we can communicate it to parishioners in our weekly and monthly newsletters:

- Masks are suggested for people who are unvaccinated or medically unable to wear them.
- All books are back for use in the pew racks and cushions in the seats.
- Capacity restrictions lifted.
- Every other pew remains closed to remain distanced.
- Contact tracing remains in place.
- Blue floor tape is removed.
- Offering plate remains in the back of the sanctuary but the Noisy Offering is back!
- No touching during the passing of the peace remains.
- Coffee hour is back with individually wrapped and plated items available.
- Updates to our guidance around Sunday School and Nursery to come in the fall.
- Small groups can come back.

Announcements:

Barney announced that Friday, August 20th there will be a party at the home of Sally McKinnon. All parishioners are invited, please bring a passing dish. (Not a Koinonia gathering, for all St. Paul's.)

James Grant said that the tech team is stretched thin and needs more people to help. If anyone is interested, they can be trained for this very important ministry. Rev. Sarah said we can put this request in our newsletters.

.The next meeting of the Vestry is planned for Tuesday, July 20, 2021, via Zoom at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was closed with a blessing by Rev. Sarah at 8:34 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Alice Mulhearn, Vestry Secretary