

Minutes for Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020, special Vestry meeting

**Zoom Special Meeting of St. Stephen's Parish Vestry  
Pittsfield, Massachusetts  
Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020, at 7:15 p.m.**

**Present:** Co-wardens Tom Dillon and Erin Sullivan; Valerie Andersen, Wendy Coakley, Leah Luczynski, Mark Miller, Angie Moon, Louise Penney, and Chris Plankey. **Absent:** John Culver.

Valerie Anderson - canoeval4@gmail; Wendy Coakley - wendycoakley72@gmail.com; John Culver - culvie229@gmail.com; Tom Dillon - tdillon45@hotmail.com; Leah Luczynski - leah@leahinteriors.com; Mark Miller mark@berkshire.net; Angie Moon - amoon@pittsfield.net; Chris Plankey - chris@djchrisplankey.com; Louise Penney (communicate through Tom); Erin Sullivan - esullypede@gmail.com

**Meeting begins** at about 7:25 with a check-in. Tom acknowledges the strain of being unexpectedly without interim rector John Tarrant, who died unexpectedly at home early last week. "He's still with us," Tom says about this remarkable man and all agree.

**Clergy Coverage:** (a) There will be no second interim rector. A short-term plan is mostly in place, and a long-term plan will be developed to see the parish through until a new rector takes over. Tom has inquired among retired and active Episcopal clergy in the county to lead Eucharistic weekend in-person services and an online service until a new person accepts the call to be St. Stephen's next rector. (b) Bill Loutrel will be celebrant and preacher for all three services this coming weekend, Sept. 5 and 6, as well as the online service taped on Thursday, which he has done once before. (c) After this weekend the 8 a.m. Sunday service will be dropped until further notice. Jenny Gregg of the Cathedral of the Beloved will lead the Saturday and Sunday services on Sept. 12 and 13, and the online service. (d) Tom says former St. Stephen's assistant rector David DeSmith, now retired in the Berkshires, has warmly offered to do everything he can in this interim period. He will lead the services the weekends of Sept, 19 and 20 and Sept. 26 and 27 and do the online version of both those services.

**Administrator Coverage:** Parish administrator Sarah Morrison expects to be out of the office for surgery during October. Bert Boos, a parishioner who has functioned as a part-time office assistant, will come in and handle many of her duties. Sarah can do the financial parts from her home while recovering. Parishioner Debbie Stillman has volunteered to come in to help Bert.

**Vestry and Ministry Leaders Coverage:** (a) Vestry members will continue to fill in as VPODs for the in-person services. (b) A change in the Eucharist since in-person services began is that one individual does all the readings including Prayers of the People, all from the lectern up front, in order to have the microphone used by just one person. (c) In-person attendance is limited to 50 preregistered attendees per service, but Tom says the three in-person services together have totaled a maximum of 46 or 48 congregants. One reason for temporarily dropping the Sunday 8 a.m. service: only about seven people have been attending it since in-person services

resumed. (d) Roy Stillman is checking registered attendees in for each in-person service and adding the names of those who haven't registered but come anyway.

**Search Update:** The search for a new rector continues unchanged with David Nevin as chair and Alec Gillman assistant chair. The search will not be accelerated. "We are so solid and we have [John Tarrant] to thank for it," says Wendy, Vestry liaison to the Search Committee. The last meeting was on Aug. 23; the next is tomorrow, Sept. 4.

**Next Regular Vestry Meeting:** Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 7:15 p.m. Erin will ask Canon to the Ordinary Rich Simpson if he would like to attend the Zoom meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Miller