

Minutes for Monday, Oct. 12, 2020, Vestry meeting

**Zoom Meeting of St. Stephen's Vestry  
Pittsfield, Massachusetts  
Monday, Oct. 12, 2020, at 7:15 p.m.**

**Present:** Bridge Rector David DeSmith, co-wardens Tom Dillon and Erin Sullivan, members Valerie Andersen, Wendy Coakley, John Culver, Leah Luczynski, Mark Miller, Angie Moon, Louise Penney, and Chris Plankey.

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 7:18 with a prayer for healing by David recommended for the weekend of Indigenous People's Day and a brief check-in by members.

**Bridge Rector Report:** David says (a) the key word for this time is "together," meaning helping each other and helping people in the community; (b) it is uplifting and renewing for him to be together again with old friends and acquaintances in the parish; (c) the transition appears to be going well, (d) as are the worship services on Saturday and Sunday and the virtual ones recorded on Wednesdays; (e) he praises Chris as well as Bill Frazier for all their help with the latter, and (f) Bert Boos and Sarah Morrison for their help in creating a smooth transition in the office; (g) Sarah is doing well after her surgery; (h) he has met Jenny Gregg and Sloan Letman and spoken with them about their Cathedral of the Beloved ministry; (i) after being filled in by Bill on people on the pastoral care list, he telephoned or visited all of them and learned that two need regular visits; he said it's hard to keep the visits to the 10-minute maximum according to coronavirus advisories; (j) he is sharing condolences with people over the huge loss of John Tarrant, for whom there has been lots of praise for his year as interim rector, when he fostered togetherness and a sense of security; (k) he has met the Rev. Diana Woffenden, interim pastor at Zion's Lutheran Church; (l) he attended via Zoom the Annual Fall Clergy with the Bishop at which the topic was building emotional and spiritual resilience; (m) he says he will provide more information to the parish about a national service for healing and wholeness scheduled for Nov. 1 at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.; (n) he asks for our prayers.

**Vestry Membership and Terms:** Erin says that in preparation for the annual meeting in January it will soon be time to determine who will stay on and who will leave the Vestry. The present terms of John C. and Louise expire in January. (Also see (c) in Other Business below.)

**Search Committee Update:** Wendy, as Vestry liaison to the Search Committee, says says members will be meeting with Rich Simpson on Oct. 14

to review Office of Transition Ministry guidelines before interviews begin. Rich reports interest already by candidates. The committee continues to meet every other Sunday on Zoom.

**Stewardship:** Valerie says (a) the deadline to sign up for next Saturday's takeout stewardship dinner is Wednesday, Oct. 14; (b) she asks Vestry members who can to be at the kitchen by 3:30 p.m. on Saturday to help package the meals and run them upstairs to parishioners arriving to pick them up on Allen Street beginning at 5; (c) new pledge cards and brochures are ready and will be given out with the meals; (d) as of today, 40 people were registered for the meals; (e) Chris is preparing a prerecorded stewardship video to be viewed by people while they eat their meals; (f) instructions will be communicated for how to access the Zoom link for the video (g) it will be available to view and listen to later on the St. Stephen's website and Facebook page. (h) Members complimented the Stewardship Committee on the hard work and creativity that has gone into this year's drive. (i) Tom says parishioners should be alerted that Allen Street will become a north-to-south one-way street before the stewardship dinner, requiring some flexibility on the part of people coming to pick up their meals.

**Property Update:** Chris says (a) a lighting contractor is going to come in tomorrow, Tuesday, to look at the work to be done and begin preparing an estimate. (b) Erin says the expense should be paid during this fiscal year, or by Dec. 31, as it will come out of the parish's regular operating budget. (c) Expenses for the kitchen and other cellar projects will come out of the additional \$100,000 from Claire Cox's estate. (d) Tom says the matter of rotting wood around the clerestory window needs to be addressed, and a "bucket" will be needed to get up there. We should make sure to get the project included in the timeline for the Pittsfield Preservation Fund's next cycle.

**Finances:** Leah says that in the next day or two she will email out her latest Finances report, the numbers for which she received just before tonight's meeting.

**Other Business:** (a) Erin says it would make sense to put another note out to parishioners to get an assistant treasurer to work with Leah and Sarah . Someone says the job would be more appealing if the length of the term were specified. (b) Tom says he'll get something in the Bulletin and the weekly Blast. (c) Valerie suggests there be a nominating committee, for both new Vestry members and an assistant treasurer, and David says his experience is that people "terming off" Vestry join with one or two others to form the committee. He says people should know what skills are needed for Vestry members and for a new assistant treasurer.

**Next Vestry Meeting:** Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 7:15 p.m., by Zoom.

**Meeting Is Adjourned** at 8:29 with a prayer by David.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Miller