

St. Stephen's Vestry Meeting

April 13, 2021

The meeting began at 7:15 via Zoom.

Present: Craig Reynolds, Rev. Nina Pooley, Leah Luczynski, Chris Plankey, Wendy Webster-Coakley, Mark Miller, Erin Sullivan, John Culver, Louise Penney, Valerie Andersen, Angela Moon

Welcome and opening prayer: Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley read a prayer from Daily Prayer for all Seasons

Approval of Minutes: Mark Miller motioned and Louise Penney seconded the minutes be approved for the March meeting.

Rector's Report - Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley

- a. Nina has been meeting with the Wardens twice a month to get a plan moving forward. They are mapping how we can function efficiently as a Vestry. We use email, zoom, and google docs. Google docs will allow us all to have information accessible and saved in shared folders. We will have a check in at 7:00, but the meeting will start at 7:15. We will follow an agenda and manage time as outlined by a schedule. Reports will be available through shared google documents at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. We will establish Vestry Norms. One Norm is we are allowed to disagree and have opinions, we will have a vote and if the majority of the vote is agreeing with us or without us, we will all own the decisions as a Vestry. Work will be done when we are not at Vestry.

Small groups can get together and work and come back. Questions came up about getting reports. Leah doesn't usually get the finance info from Sarah until the day of the meeting. Nina, Leah, and Sarah will figure out how to report.

b. As a congregation we are moving out of crisis into intention. Some vestry working groups that we might get together are:

1. Worship- special services once a month, Eucharistic, healing, other services.
2. What next: steps to opening
3. Building use: otherwise , do we still need this pipe cleaner?
4. The Biggest Group: Member engagement-re-establishing connections/ we can get over the top and be intentional about this.

We also need to look at strategic vision about the future. These are some questions to consider. What can we do that will support racial justice?

How can we have feedback for Nina?

Nina's role has 4 parts: worship, ministry, systems, evangelism.

c. Reopening or re-connecting: Bishops and Deans say re-opening is going to be more complicated. It is a grey area to be coming back, health and safety.

Variants might be coming still. Young people are not vaccinated yet. How do we navigate this? Can we meet outside? Can a few of us write about it for the newsletter? We might do the service in the Common with the Cathedral of the

Beloved and Zion Lutheran church. If weather is bad; we would go to the parking lot.

Property Committee – Chris Plankey

- a. The lighting project is done. All of it is done. Yay!
- b. The cable for high speed internet in the sanctuary is done. This made us eligible for a grant of \$2000.00. Yay again! Moving forward, live-streaming will benefit us to reach more people.
- c. As part of his monthly property committee report, Chris has reached out to Al Symonds to see if there is anything newsworthy to report pertaining to the boilers. During his time in the church filming worship, Chris has observed that the boilers are unusually noisy and sometimes it is very hot in the sanctuary. Al Symonds is in the church often dealing with this. Al reports there are significant things happening with the boilers. He ordered a new part, a pump. The repair is scheduled once we come out of heating season, as repairs will be less expensive. Moving forward, Chris will continue to check in with Al in order to include the boilers in his monthly property committee reports.

Stewardship - Valerie Anderson no report this month.

Finances - The total paid for lighting and maintenance was \$16,600. The savings account has a lot of money in it so we talked about moving some money to the endowment and being able to take it out as needed. Leah talked to Nina about putting in a blurb into the newsletter, showing where finances are in comparison to other years. We are net positive \$28,000 at this time. There was a donation for the office to be freshened up. Leah met with Nina and talked about the office and Nina's office, possibly new carpet. Moving forward with the kitchen plan; someone needs to be available to meet with the building inspector.

Other Business: Chris invited everyone to attend a two part zoom workshop for clergy, vestry, and digital ministers entitled Evangelism & The Communication Audit. From western mass diocese.

Wendy, Erin, and Nina are going to write about concerns to re-open to communicate with the congregation in the First Order.

Closing: the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 by Erin Sullivan.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Moon