

# St. Stephen's Vestry Meeting

## August 17, 2021

The meeting began at 7:15 and was held via Zoom.

**Present:** Craig Reynolds, Rev. Nina Pooley, Leah Luczynski, Erin Sullivan, Valerie Andersen, Angela Moon, Wendy Webster Coakley and Chris Plankey.

**Welcome and opening prayer:** Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley opened with a prayer from the book Daily Prayer from the Community (Belfast?)

**Approval of Minutes:** Valerie Andersen moved and Wendy Webster Coakley seconded and the Vestry accepted the minutes to be approved for the July meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Leah Luczynski : We are net positive as of the end of July.

Loose plate offering is down about \$2000.00 but that is expected. Pledge money, as well as unpledged income are not down too much. Some people do tend to catch up on pledges in the second half of the year. Overall, July was up for income as compared to the average of the three previous years. Expenses were also up compared to the July average of the last three years, mostly due to salaries increasing. Leah Luczynski feels that we are in good shape year to date based on the line items on the budget.

**Rector's Report** - Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley

- a. When do we start the 5:00 service? Nina has contacted several clergy who are connected with St. Stephen's that were interested in coming on a rotating basis,

but are not anymore due to wanting to be cautious about safety with the Covid virus. We will keep one service for now.

- b. Sunday morning will move to 10:00 on September 12, 2021.
- c. Creation season schedule is on Rector's Report. Nina is looking for a couple more voices to speak out at Compline and during Creation Season. If we move to Zoom, Valerie's daughter Anna Black is a climatologist and a possible person to speak to us. Compline could be offered on Tuesday?
- d. Sacred ground is coming up. Joel Huntington (South), Joel Bergeland (Zion) and Jenny Gregg (Cathedral) are interested in maybe combining. Ours would be 10 sessions on Thursday evenings. There is homework every week.
- e. Oct. 10, 2021- Bishop Fisher is coming to install Nina and celebrate her ministry at St. Stephens. A guest preacher or the bishop may preach or a rector named Heather Blay, whom Nina mentored. (Ask Nina, she mentioned that we should not comment during Vestry meetings.)
- f. Western Mass Labor Action, Valerie mentioned that this might be a charity to look into. Wendy mentioned that there were concerns with them at her last business. We will proceed this year with Erin's recommendation as this has already been committed based on last year. We are not sure. Maybe moving forward we can look at resources more closely.

**Presentation of Diaconate candidates:** Wendy Webster-Coakley and

Craig Reynolds : This is a deliberate, intentional, and complex process. Candidates pay  $\frac{1}{3}$  of tuition, parish pays  $\frac{1}{3}$  and diocese pays  $\frac{1}{3}$ . Craig and Wendy interviewed Sharon Billeter and J.D. Hebert and recommended that we give full spiritual, emotional, and financial support to both candidates in their pursuit of ordination to the diaconate. Angie Moon moved and Valerie Andersen seconded and the Vestry voted to support Sharon Billeter. Angie Moon moved and Valerie Andersen seconded that J.D. Hebert be supported as well.

**Warden's report:** Craig Reynolds/Erin Sullivan:

- a. Health and Safety protocols: some changes- Bill Lattrell raised the issue to remain fully masked. Allen St. entrance will remain locked. Sarah and Bert will continue answering the doorbell at this time.
- b. Live Streaming: Ken Pooley has some equipment that he will try out this Sunday. He is testing something that is between \$800-\$1000 but we will be able to use this regardless of our next steps. This should give us a leap in quality. Craig moved and Chris seconded that we approve this expense and vestry approved. An investment in the future of \$5000-\$10,000 will get us a system like St. John's and Zion's that give a higher end quality. There will need to be a location permanently for this equipment to install it; a possible location is the balcony behind the rows of pews or in the sanctuary near the existing sound system. Chris Plankey did such a great job putting together pre-recorded service videos

that people really appreciated. An upgrade in live streaming capability is important to keep members of our parish connected. Ken has been a great resource to give us advice. Does the diocese still have grant money or funds for the live streaming upgrade? Zion's has Sunday sexton do it and it is part of the job description.

- c. Removal of stuff and clean out stuff on the 3rd floor and other locations around the building: There is stuff that needs others to help decide what to remove or keep. We should craft a policy about decisions about donations. Erin will help with a policy. Nina wants to let people have a look at stuff that might be let go and give them the opportunity.

**Property report:** Chris Plankey: Property report is in the Vestry folder. Sarah has made some service calls.

**Stewardship:** Valerie Andersen : Report is in the Vestry folder. Word cloud is something that we will be using. Wendy will be explaining it more in the first order.

**Action items:**

1. Nina mentioned making a note to have something in place for those who drop off with pledges that are budgeted.
2. Nina will talk to a person from W.M.L.A. and give a donation from the discretionary fund to buy school supplies.
3. The Vestry should think about any questions we have about the live streaming options.
4. The next meeting is September 14, 2021.

5. **Closing:** Nina closed with some prayers for Bill Carter as well as Teddy Carter and their daughters. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 by Erin.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Moon