

# St. Stephen's Vestry Meeting

## September 27, 2022

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

**Present:** Leah Luczynski, Chris Plankey, Josie Ellis, Suzanne White, Craig Reynolds, Wendy Webster Coakley, David Nevin, John Garinther, Christina Wynn, John Culver

**Welcome/Call to order and opening prayer:** Josie called the meeting to order. David Nevin opened with a prayer called From the Grass Roots

**Clerk Report:** Angie Moon

Action items from the last meeting (Aug. 23,2022)

Action item 1: Vestry members email Nina, Josie, and Craig about their availability to help at the service for Gwen (no matter whether yes or no) by Saturday, August 27 at 5 PM.

- Thank you to EVERYONE who made the service such a wonderful tribute to Gwen!

Action item 2: Nina, Josie, and Craig to ask that the Faith in Blue event be discussed at the Cathedral/Campus meeting on September 1.

- The plan that emerged is to gather with other faith communities and the general public at the police station and Dunham Mall on Sunday, October 9 at 11:30 AM.

**Approval of Minutes:** Christina Wynn moved and John Culver seconded and the Vestry voted unanimously to approve the minutes, as amended, from the August 23, 2022, Vestry meeting.

**Upcoming Stewardship Kick-off-** Wendy (Christina and Leah)

- Stewardship committee is going to have a Harvest brunch on Sun.

Oct. 23

- 5 weeks of personal messages. Maybe some less familiar voices and faces. This year we are asking what they have learned in the past 2 years and how

to prepare to serve the greater community. Do you have others to ask? Could the youth do a week and talk about how they come together and how the last two years affected them? Let Wendy know of others who might like to speak.

### **Property Updates** - John G.

- The motor did not turn on with the boiler this week. The temperature in the parish house is low to mid 60s but will start to get uncomfortable.
- The elevator has been out of service. Otis elevator has not been responding to service calls even though we pay a monthly fee. A lawyer has been contacted to get us out of this contract. This is a long term big expense to fix.
- Chris is excited about the lock on Allen St. The office staff will have much less interruptions.
- Action-Respond to feedback about sign by next Tuesday Oct. 4

### **Faith and Blue weekend (Oct 9)** - Josie

- Christina, Josie, and Craig met with Chief Mike Wynn- They love the idea of a meet and greet. They will do an interfaith press release. Mike will talk about his trip to Israel. Winston(dog) will be there. Touring of police vehicles. Craig is putting together a checklist and it would be great to have Vestry come. Refreshments will be arranged. Have other clergy/faiths/synagogues/mosques been invited yet? Hopefully the word can get out soon.

### **Financial Review** - Leah & Suzanne

- Let Leah know of upcoming property expenses or expenses for next year so the finance committee can plan budget accordingly.
- We have started paying for HVAC consultation and started to pay for stained glass window repair. Sarah has moved money from Savings to Checking to pay for upcoming expenses.
- We are on target with our pledges, this is unusual as there is usually a summer dip in pledge income and some folks fall behind, but folks are on track.

### **Donations policy vote** - Craig

- Wendy suggested saying God bless you at the end instead of ending so abruptly. Craig said that it could be formatted differently and say about appreciating God's work. (John G. mentioned the collection of clothing on the third floor that is flowing in the hallway from the JF). Craig also said monetary donations could be accepted. Chris said it could be a link on our website page. He gets messages on facebook about businesses and people wanting to donate. He could then respond with a link to the policy on the website. This policy will help people that have to be graceful at saying no to unwanted items. John G. moves to accept the donation policy and seconded by Wendy, the Vestry approved it unanimously.

### **Streaming equipment discussion** - Craig

- The cameras we have now are inflexible and preset in particular directions. Ken brings his equipment in.
- There is money in the budget (Craig would like to explore the possibility of using some of the unspent 2022 funds in the Publicity account (roughly \$2,800 through August) Craig would like to look at a Pan/Tilt/Zoom camera that could be remotely positioned by computer. (To capture other locations in the church like baptisms, etc.)
- Craig will consult with Ken and he thinks the cost will be about 1500.
- The live stream is recorded and exists on Youtube. It is recorded simultaneously. If the live stream is somehow kicked out the recording is still happening.
- Do we have insurance that covers theft? Craig says that it should cover this equipment.
- There is a dip in summer watchers but during the week there is more that watch at other times/days. There are still 25-40 watching a week. We are still servicing homebound parishioners by having our service on the website/youtube. For a modest investment we can step up our game with this.

- Our Youtube channel is like an archive. People can look up sermons, music, etc. It is a good way to share with others that don't come to church. We can also have it put in place to do an online service if the weather is really bad.
- Upgrades would allow us to pan the pews full of people during hymns, etc.
- Ken now brings one camera every week. He brought it more equipment for Gwen's funeral to make it top notch. Ken is a pro and perfectionist.
- (Lectern mic and sound system need to be discussed about upgrading-Wood brothers came out a year ago and said that they don't want to mess with it)
- (lectern mic works when speaking directly into it.)
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### **Future COVID adjustments; communion, acolytes, LEMs**-Josie

- Do parishioners like going back to the front to get communion? Some LEM's are worried about the chalice. Intinction is actually more apt to spread germs. The server wiping the chalice and turning it is more sanitary. Some parishes have instituted the chalice. Nina thought we should hold off till Advent to think about reintroducing the wine.

**Sunday School room blessed**- Thank you for Suzanne, Leah, Josie for transforming the Sears room into a beautiful space for our children. David DeSmith did a wonderful blessing that many participated in after the service on Sept. 25th.

### **Next Meeting**

Our next Vestry meeting will be Oct. 25, 2022.

### **Action Items:**

1. Stewardship Harvest Brunch date Oct. 23, add to your calendar.
2. Offer feedback about the sign out front to Chris by next Tuesday Oct. 4.
3. Faith and Blue date Oct. 9, add to your calendar
4. Craig will talk to Chris and Ken about what is needed for live stream equipment and ask for a vote at the Oct. meeting.

**Closing:** Craig closed with a prayer given to the Vestry by Rich Simpson, The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Moon, Clerk