

St. Stephen's Vestry Meeting October 25, 2022

The meeting began at 7:19 and was held via Zoom.

Present: Rev. Nina Pooley, Leah Luczynski, Chris Plankey, Josie Ellis, Suzanne White, Craig Reynolds, Wendy Webster Coakley, David Nevin, John Garinther, John Culver

Welcome/Call to order and opening prayer: Josie called the meeting to order. Nina opened with a prayer from John: 14 and a meditation by Maya Angelou titled Peace.

Clerk Report: Angie Moon

Action items from the last meeting (Sept. 27, 2022)

Action item 1 & 3: Events to attend-Faith and Blue and Harvest Brunch- Thank you for attending

Action item 4: Livestream equipment information-See Warden's report

Action item 2: Feedback on front sign given to Chris P.-Thank you to all who gave feedback

Approval of Minutes: David moved and John G. seconded and the Vestry voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2022, Vestry meeting.

Stewardship: Wendy: Harvest brunch recap: Thank you all of you who helped make this an awesome event. We had about 66 people plus those in Sunday School. The leftovers were sent to the Cathedral. This was a great kick-off to the Stewardship/Pledge season. More of Leah's bookmarks were ordered and will be at church this Sunday.

Financial Report: Leah/Suzanne:

- The financial team met and thought there was still room to consolidate and streamline some of the line items. The savings is in one account but we keep record of some of it being earmarked for specific funds.
- The diocese is recommending a 5% increase for cost of living. This will be added to the budget on the salaries.
- We are over budget about \$50,00 for the year. We have moved from savings to checking and have not touched the endowment yet. (We had budgeted for \$85,000 deficit this year)

Warden's Report: Craig/Josie:

Safe Church- We need a Safe Church officer and a Safe Church policy. (This is part of the financial audit by the diocese) We could promote Safe Church with little snippets like the living green snippets.

- Mark Fields is a gentleman who comes to services, he can attach to parishioners (Mary Gillman) John Tarrant was in the process of getting a no trespassing order. (Mary and Alec no longer come to services) Mark can become aggressive and seems unhappy at times and comes to the church to confront staff. Sometimes he is fine when he comes but it can be unpredictable. He can become aggressive towards women and sometimes women with children. The police recommend having him "No Trespassed" at church. He does better at other churches when Mary is not an issue for him. He should only be addressed by men, not women.

- Josie said there is a training that we can do with the police station (active shooter training)

- Nina mentioned the diocese has a person who is a Church Security officer who could also do training with leaders and others like sextons, etc.

- Suzanne mentioned that we regularly had fire drills as well.

- The Safe Church officer can't be the priest. The office will help with the administrative piece of the job.

Communion ushers- Parishioners have jumped in to usher. VPOD will either do the communion usher themselves or find someone that morning who will (one or two people)

Equipment- We will use money from the publicity fund to buy improved camera equipment to ensure better quality in our videos of services. We will go with the equipment that was the better option.

Coffee Hour- We have 7 hosts. They can host once a quarter. Maybe on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, the same Sunday as church school.

Rector's Report: Nina+

Adult Education- (during Advent) The book has a word of the day, easy to follow as individuals. Margot could consider offering a once a week group.

Sunday Eve Worship- Start an evening service this Fall, maybe Advent? It is also flu season, so maybe Lent would be a better start?

Communion- We are one of the only churches not offering wine. We are not feeling comfortable yet as the chalice would be drunk from and not dipped into. The little cups at Zion were an option that is not available to us at this time.

Property Report: John G./Chris:

Elevator- Our lawyer told Otis Elevator that we are terminating the service contract, they actually owe us money to cover an inspection fee. We also pay a monthly fee to maintain the elevator and they have not been holding up their end of the contract. Our lawyer is not a litigator so we can't take them to court, just send letters with lawyer letterhead.

Allen St. Doors- The door will be open 9-5 next week. The locks are ready within the church, the tenants have been informed.

Clerk and Assistant Treasurer ideas: Josie Be thinking of parishioners who might be willing and able to fill these roles.

Next Meeting

Our next Vestry meeting will be Nov. 22, 2022.

Action Items:

1. Next meeting we will vote on the quarterly budget when all of the numbers are in.
2. We need to find a Safe Church officer: any ideas?
3. VPOD will find a communion usher or do it themselves that week.
4. Think of candidates for clerk and assistant treasurer. Angie will check who else needs to be replaced.

Closing: Nina closed with a prayer, The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Moon, Clerk