

July Vestry Meeting Minutes  
23 July 2024  
In person and via Zoom

Meeting opened at 7:07 p.m.

Present in person: Beth Anne Hamling, Christopher Plankey, Josephine Ellis (senior co-warden), and John Garinther (junior co-warden)

Present via zoom: David Nevin, Suzanne White (treasurer), Caleb Harmon, James Alden, and William O'Neill (assistant treasurer)

Regrets: Wendy Webster Coakley, Dr. J. Christopher Perry (clerk), Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley, Rector

In the absence of our clerk, Chris Plankey took notes and produced these minutes.

Opening Scripture and Prayer:

Offered by James Alden, in the absence of Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley.

Scripture

14:1-6 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life.

Opening Prayer

God of hope, from you come every blessing and all peace; show us that, in the midst of our struggles, you are with us. Give us the abundance of your grace that we may do the work you give us to do and that we may be for the world a sign of your presence; through Christ, the Way and the Truth. Amen.

NEW BUSINESS

Reducing office staff and office hours: Josie explained that John, Nina, and Josie plan to meet with Sarah to hear her thoughts on how the office could run with our new idea for reducing office staff and hours. Decisions have not been made, we're merely discussing this as a cost saving measure intended to help balance the budget and we want to hear from Sarah what she thinks is feasible, etc.

501c3: Josie explained that she, John and Nina plan to create a small group with knowledge of what the steps may be to create a 501c3 for St. Stephen's Table. What will it take? How feasible is it? What are the benefits/obstacles? Give some serious thought to the pros/cons with specifics relating to budget/funding/expenses etc.

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VESTRY ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION

VESTRY LEFT EXECUTIVE SESSION

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OLD BUSINESS

Approval of May Minutes: Josie moved to approve May minutes. Beth Anne seconded. In favor: unanimous. Opposed: none.

Review Action Items from previous meeting: Action items reviewed.

Review Committee Reports:

Finance - no report to review. With Sarah's illness and vacation, the numbers were not available in time. Suzanne will add the finance report to the vestry folder when ready. Finance meets next week.

Stewardship: There will be a change in chairperson shifting from Wendy Webster Coakley to Jim Alden. During the period of transition, the two will co-chair. No questions from the vestry on the stewardship report.

Property: Some discussion about the plan to acquire the front lawn, but nothing more than a review of the information presented in property's report to the vestry. No questions from vestry.

Warden's Report: John discussed his intention to include weekly factoids about Table within the worship booklet and perhaps in other ways (during announcements and/or the weekly blast, etc.). This speaks to our desire and need to find ways to better "market" Table. As our flagship ministry, the mission has grown fast all on its own (with numbers nearly doubling over the last year), however we have long been discussing ways to grow the mission, "tighten up" the mission, strengthen the volunteer base, raise general awareness, and honor donors and volunteers.

Rector's report: In Nina's absence, we took a few minutes to make sure everyone had a chance to review her report. There were no questions about it.

Action Items:

1. Nina and wardens to meet with Sarah as described above.
2. Nina and wardens to organize group to discuss 501c3 as described.

Closing Prayer:

Offered by James Alden, in the absence of Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley.

Holy One, you hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of this world's anger and sorrow; give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Next Meeting: 27 August 2024 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:33 p.m.