

St. John's Episcopal Church Vestry 26 August 2020

Present: Pamela Brittain, Ray Contreras, David Dennehy, Terry Farrelly, Diane Gustafson, Rev. Roger Haenke, Mark Higginbotham, Muriel Kulikowski, Jim McDevitt, Judy McKay, Lynn Young

Following the opening prayer, Rev. Roger Haenke called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Appreciation was noted for the following: for Cliff Berkowitz's making the virtual worship service possible, for Cheryl Seppala's suggestion to include a tour of the church and grounds during readings in the service on August 23, to all parishioners for keeping us connected, and for the Vestry's flowers to Judy McKay when her son passed away.

Lynn Young moved approval of the Consent Agenda (Vestry minutes for July, the Priest's Monthly Operations Report, and Wardens' Report), Mark Higginbotham seconded, and the motion passed.

Terry Farrelly presented the Treasurer's report (filed with these minutes in the Vestry binder in the Church Office). Pledges year-to-date are above budget, plate is down, contributions are up. Total income is about \$5500 less than budgeted, but expenses are down. Vestry praised Rev. Roger Haenke for his leadership.

The PPP loan will continue as an agenda item until the loan has been forgiven. Documents are being gathered for whenever Bank of America requests them.

St. John's has budgeted \$3500 for an external audit. The Diocese may be able to do an audit review instead. There may be a decision on this by the September Vestry meeting.

The members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Financial Policies and Procedures have been reviewing the documents and will meet again in mid-September. The finished product should be ready for Vestry review in October.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mark Higginbotham moved, Pam Brittain seconded to implement the court's directive to send the playground funds to the Diocese for dispersing checks to Vida Joven and to the fund for youth trips to Mexico (no such trip is currently scheduled). Terry Farrelly will contact the Diocesan Public Relations staff about a possible Zoom event to present the check to Vida Joven.

There has been no progress on the SE corner property.

Acquiring an easement to the Fonte property for an additional egress from our parking lot was discussed. We also need to re-roof or repair the roofs at the school and the church administrative building. We are awaiting a bid from the roofer. We discussed one or the other of these competing projects being funded

with a grant from the Diocese; we need more information about the costs of each. Next month the Vestry will prioritize these needs.

Gutters and painting have been done. A bid to finish trim on windows and doors will be forthcoming.

The Chula Vista Fire Department is not doing inspections at the present time, so the alarm system has not been switched to CVA.

Tree trimming and removal have been completed.

Since the last Vestry meeting, Bishop Susan Brown Snook and other U.S. bishops have met with Dr. Anthony Fauci, who recommended that re-gathering be considered. Dean Cheryl Anderson of the School of Public Health at USD agreed. Bishop Susan has given permission for re-gathering outside. Rev. Roger Haenke continues to monitor statistics on COVID-19 cases in this area, and the County is no longer on the “hot list”.

There will be a memorial service for Fr. Jack Tolley on Saturday, August 29 in the courtyard and also live-streamed. On Sunday, September 6 there will be no service at St. John’s because Bishop Susan will be officiating at a Diocesan worship, to be live-streamed, at 10 a.m. Diane Gustafson moved, Muriel Kulikowski seconded to resume in-person gathering in the courtyard area on Sunday, September 13; the previously approved action plan will be in effect. There will be no social hour and no refreshments for the foreseeable future. Bishop Susan will visit St. John’s on Sunday, September 20 and plans to meet with the Vestry (to be determined if in-person/social-distanced or virtual). Mark Higginbotham moved, Muriel Kulikowski seconded to use the \$750 audio/visual equipment grant from the Diocese for software for virtual worship and for the outdoor sound system. The motion passed with one abstention.

The Diocesan Convention will be totally virtual instead of utilizing nine parish sites as previously considered.

NEW BUSINESS:

Celebration of Life services will be held for Fr. Jack Tolley on August 29 and Fr. Al Stott on September 19, both at 11 a.m. The Tolley family has asked that any donations be put into a memorial fund at St. John’s to be used as needed. David Dennehy moved, Muriel Kulikowski seconded that any such donations for Jack and Al be placed in a memorial fund rather than into the operating budget. The motion passed.

Rev. Roger Haenke and David Dennehy have sent a letter to the Diocesan Standing Committee requesting two amendments to our By-Laws.

- Change the corporate name from “Vestrymen” to either “Vestry” or “Vestry Members.”

- Throughout the Articles the title “Rector” is used exclusively. Based on the diocesan canon amendments made at the 2017 convention, change “Rector” to either “Rector/Vicar/Priest-in-charge” or add a footnote that “Rector” is synonymous with Priest-in-Charge and Vicar.

These requests will go to the Standing Committee for consideration at their September meeting. St. John’s is an Action Plan Parish (APP), formerly known as Mission Action Parish (MAP), and a request has been sent to the Standing Committee asking for clarification on returning to regular status.

According to the By-Laws, the Treasurer’s term of office expires at the end of 2020. Rev. Roger Haenke and the Wardens would like to extend Terry Farrelly’s term by one year, and she is amenable to that. Diane Gustafson moved, Lynn Young seconded that a request for an exception to the By-Laws be made. The motion passed.

David Dennehy moved, Jim McDevitt seconded to register St. John’s as a charity with Amazon Smile. Amazon will donate .05% of purchases made. The motion passed. After registration has been done, instructions will be sent to parishioners and anyone else interested in this fundraiser for St. John’s.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Diane Gustafson, Clerk of Vestry