

Minutes of St. Paul's Vestry Meeting via Zoom

December 15, 2020

In Attendance: The Reverend Mary Friel, Senior Warden Mike Olson, Junior Warden Bob North, Treasurers Myron Richardson and Diane Freestate, Finance Chair Ned Aull, Vestry Members: Peggy Andrews, Mark Freestate, Alan Griffith, Dan Macari, Dan Rugg, Matt Ward

Absent: Vestry Members Sally Cooper, Catherine Kirchner and Tracy Wilson

1. Call to order: Rev. Mary called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Opening Prayer: Mark Freestate

3. Minutes of November Meeting: The minutes were approved by consensus.

4. December Financials: Treasurer Myron Richardson:

- Pledges for 2021 have been coming in regularly. We have 54 pledges for \$246,814 at this point versus a total of 62 for \$248,354 in 2020.
- Contributions are good for the end of 2020, but we are behind \$34,000 on our pledges, which is a high number for this time of the year. Myron anticipates that we will not get \$8000 of that amount since 33 people have not met their 2020 pledges yet. The budget for 2020 allows for missing \$5000 in pledges. New salaries will need to begin in January, so it is necessary to approve a Preliminary 2021 Budget. Myron moved and Bob North seconded that we adopt the preliminary budget which was presented in November. Discussion followed about the Building Fund Budget and Rev. Mary's request to not receive a raise until the budget is balanced. The Finance Committee understands this and have recommended a 1.5% increase for the rest of the staff. Motion passed.

- Myron said that the Building Fund Budget will be approved along with the Final Operating Budget for 2021 in January.
- Myron moved and Mark Freestate seconded that we approve the housing allowance portion in the budget for the Rector's compensation in 2021. Myron explained the IRS tax restrictions which determine what Rev. Mary can claim. Routinely, this specific resolution is passed every year. Motion passed. The resolution is attached.
- This is Myron's last Vestry meeting as Treasurer. His service has been greatly appreciated and will be noted in the future when COVID-19 restrictions allow the Parish to formally acknowledge his 6 years of service. Diane Freestate will serve as Treasurer after being approved at the January Annual Meeting.

5. Report of the Rector, Rev. Mary Friel:

- Since we are missing services during Advent when we usually give a bonus to our Parish Administrator and Assistant Treasurer, Michele Miller, Rev. Mary encouraged everyone to mail in checks or drop them by the office.
- In compliance with the Bishop's recent directive to not have church indoors on Dec. 13th and Dec. 20th, Rev. Mary is waiting to hear about Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We will be informed when she knows what procedures we must follow. The outdoor service at 3:00 pm on Christmas Eve will proceed as planned. We will have a heated tent with wind blockers and music by the Baltimore Brass Quintet.
- Deacon Peggy Samuels prepared her first sermon at St. Paul's and was not able to give it because indoor church was cancelled. Rev. Mary and Michele will attempt to get a copy of it to all of us.
- We are encouraged to keep in touch by phone with our fellow parishioners during these times.

6. Reports of Senior Warden Mike Olson and Junior Warden Bob North:

- Referring to the invoice from Ridgely C. Kelly, the person who repaired and painted the church doors, Bob noticed a mistake in the invoice. The correct

final cost including labor and materials is \$2,164.00. Usually, the Vestry must approve any expenditure above \$2000.00. Dan Rugg moved, and Myron Richardson seconded the motion to approve this payment for work well done. Discussion followed about the high quality of this work. Motion passed.

8. Old Business

- The estimated cost for the acquisition and installation of video infrastructure in our Sanctuary was discussed. The project cost estimates seem reasonable. To address concerns about having to depend upon volunteers to run and maintain the equipment, so far, the two Pupke boys, Coleman Sellers and possibly one of his sons may be possible candidates to be a paid team to see to this task. The Pupke boys are going to college out of state so they would probably only be able to be available in the summer. Since we currently have three commitments, Rev. Mary would like to have a solid team of six working on a rotating schedule before spending any money on this project. Matt Ward and Kin Hazuda are continuing to approach others who might be interested enough to commit. The goal is to not purchase any equipment until a personnel team and specific operation plans are firmly in place. Decisions on this topic will be postponed until the January Vestry Meeting.

9. New Business:

- It was proposed that the January 24th Annual Meeting quorum of 35 persons requirement might be granted a dispensation from the Bishop. Mail in ballots/and or email for electing new Vestry members are being considered, timing and format to be decided.
- The 2024 class of new Vestry members will be included at the regular January 26th meeting at 7:00 pm in Donaldson Hall. Adjustments in time and format may be necessary and will be announced in the future.

Evening Prayer

Adjourned at 6:45 p.m.