

Christ Church, Dearborn
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, August 18, 2019

Attendance: Jean Angel, Lynn Becker, Nick Bell, Barbara Hall, Stephanie Mulkern, Holly Schanz, James Thornton, Chris Ventura

Absent: Michael Mroczyk, Rev. Halim Shukair

Presiding: Rev. Terri Pilarski,

Treasurer: Kevin Green

Terri called the meeting to order at 11:32. One item was added to the agenda, a request for funds will be presented from the Strengthening Community Relations RIT (Renaissance Implementation Team) to offset expenses for the annual Fall parish pot-luck, and will become part of 'Community Sunday'

On Saturday, August 17, Nick sent an amended copy of the minutes from July 14, which the Vestry reviewed prior to the meeting. Nick made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Holly seconded, motion passed, with Stephanie abstaining because she was not on the Vestry in July.

Terri led the Vestry in an update on the work before us for the 2019-2020 program year. Specifically, the work of the Baptized for Life team and the Stewardship Commission as well as the Vestry and the yet to be formed Partnership in Faith Covenant team.

Forming the Partnership in Faith team will include 4 people from Christ Church and 4 people from Mother of the Savior. These will include Rector, Wardens, and one member at large from CECD and Priest in Charge, Council President and VP, and one member at large from MotS. This team will be responsible for working out the specifics of the covenant while also participating in forming a successful Partnership in Faith.

The Baptized for Life team is organizing three sets of 8 dinners: first set will be fall/winter of 2019-2020, second will be summer of 2020, third will be fall/winter of 2020-2021. These dinners will invite participants from CECD and MotS to form deeper relationships over 8 dinners. The dinners will follow the Eating Together Faithfully guide, which has a Eucharistic approach to Bible reading reflecting on the Bible readings, sharing a meal, and considering the world around us through the lens of food equality and the environment. The dinners will utilize teachings from Kaleidoscope Institute's approach to Gracious Leadership: Respectful Guidelines, Mutual Invitation, and Bible sharing.

The Stewardship Commission is using the Kaleidoscope Institute's 365 Stewardship program based on Eric Law's book, Holy Currency and the Cycle of Blessing. The Cycle of Blessing considers the flow of six currencies which, when they are flowing well enable churches to have sustainability. The currencies are: Gracious Leadership; Relationship; Wellness; Time and Place; Money; and Truth. The Stewardship Commission is participating in 6 webinars with Eric Law to learn the program and design it for CECD. More will be coming in September. The Commission will assess the approach through answering a series of theological reflection questions geared to help church manage change effectively. They will also evaluate the work of the program and the parish through 4 evaluation processes.

All of this work is being considered through Michael Curry's "Way of Love" initiative, which we are thinking of as guiding principles.

Terri handed out a nine-page document with the details of this work.

The Vestry is working on developing clarity around our hopes, concerns, and visions for the Partnership in Faith. She offered the following as a way to help the Vestry consider our covenant and gain some clarity on our vision:

A covenant is intended to uphold the wellbeing of those in the community. It is intended to build relationship and form mutual respect that can sustain us in good times and through challenges. Covenants are not static, they need to be renewed and sometimes recreated anew. The covenant that God formed with humankind through Jesus is Love God, Love yourself, and Love others as yourself.

Terri asked: What is the covenant we need to make as Partners in Faith, between Christ Church and Mother of the Savior which will enable us to live together and be socially, physically, and spiritually well?

For example, Terri's vision is something like this:

Vision: each community will retain it's identity while learning to share a building and deepening our faith through developing meaningful relationships through shared meals, specific bi-lingual worship opportunities, and common care for the building and property in which both churches reside as partners. In this way we will reflect the image of God's presence in the diversity of people who live in this neighborhood and we will expand the understanding of God's presence in our capacity to love one another; respecting the dignity of each other's expression of God.

In preparation to answering some questions Terri asked the Vestry to: Picture this community fully alive - consider what it looks like, smells, feels, sounds, as you encounter this community fully alive. Fill it with vibrant colors, sharpen it into clear focus.

Questions for Vestry and also Mother of the Savior Council:

What would it look like if our **Partnership in Faith enables us to live together socially "well"** (i.e. healthy, vibrant, in good relationship)

Responses:

- We can manage differences and challenges well, healthy dialogue and listening
- We will get a few more people as members
- Sharing space graciously, listening, learning, celebrating together
- Sharing a place for all to be welcomed
- Everyone will feel as though they could walk in the building or surrounding landscape
- Equal but with different ideas
- Share fellowship and promote in church/Christ Episcopal church and Mother of the Savior community and fellowship with Interfaith groups. Share meals together, some Christian education of youth together.
- Lots of conversation, shared joys, shared concerns
- All of the above and we don't have to be the same all the time, cultural and traditional differences are allowed, encouraged, celebrated.
- Expect to see no changes from current other than a more diverse community

What would it look like if our **Partnership in Faith enables us to live together physically well** - i.e. as individuals and congregations to not be overburdened?

- Sharing space with grace, friendliness, open to changes that may be necessary
- having the space and shelter for worship and fellowship, promoting support services like the food pantry so people have nutrition. Supporting activities like exercise and scouting that keep us physically strong, eating good food at church/ community garden.
- Energetic, positive outlook, hope for continued future together

- People are energized and excited not tired and burned out.
- Positive attitude to problem areas
- Sharing is caring for one another
- Maintain and extend the number of people actively engaged in year-round programs. Some shared between MotS and CECD and others.
- Expect to see no changes from current other than a more diverse community (see socially well)

What would it look like if our **Partnership in Faith enables us to live together physically well** - i.e. the building and property of this church is utilized in life giving ways and is well cared for?

- The building would be presented to the public as well kept, socially accepting of majority of people passing by
- Building is clean (still clean) and well cared for even with more activity & without staff/congregation exhaustion
- Each church takes an interest in keeping mutual space clean and making repairs as needed. Working together in community projects.
- It feels like a church home to all
- A positive balance of books (financial) and less in the red negative balances
- Lots of meals and other opportunities to share building with the wider community
- The responsibility of more than a few to care for the building - more people sharing the maintenance of the property and building
- Time, money, talents of both churches and organizations to help keep the building growing, keeping areas picked up when used by individuals & groups.
- We are able to share responsibilities for the building and grounds. As well as costs of maintenance and operations.
- The property/building would be bustling, thriving place with various activities continually taking place throughout the property/building.

What would it look like if our **Partnership in Faith enables us to live together and be spiritually well?**

- Continue individual worship sometimes, but spend some time learning about each other's worship and coming together sometimes. Bible study together? Major holidays together sometimes?
- A deeper understanding of what it means to be a Christian Community
- Sharing ideas of each faith and how we can interact together
- Have the people do happy and positive things about faith and spirituality
- We are a blessing to each other, more together than we could be alone
- There are a rich range of spiritual offerings, styles of worship and practices we are comfortable with: differences of traditions that show up among the varieties.
- Learning and accepting the way each of us experiences spirituality and grow together so that each is stronger
- A stronger community more in tune with the needs of others around us
- Youth programs combined

Vestry took a short break, then reviewed the above points together. Terri said she would try to organize these into a Vestry vision, and send it around for the Vestry to review, edit, add. The Vision will be shared with MotS and the Covenant Team, who will work on a Vision. In the end will have a shared vision crafted for clarity as work on the covenant.

Kevin Green arrived and walked us through the Treasurer's report. We are running about \$9,000 behind budget, which is typical of summer months. The hope is we will mostly catch up by year end, although it is anticipated that we will have a larger deficit than anticipated. The Claubush bequest has been moved in the Diocesan Growth and Income fund to earn interest of about 4%.

Nick made 4 finance motions, all approved unanimously:

1. A motion was made by Nick and seconded by Holly - to overspend line item #593 by \$250
2. A motion was made by Nick and seconded by Lynn to pay the full diocesan apportionment of \$29, 518.00 for 2020.
3. A motion was made by Nick and seconded by Jean to designate the proceeds from 2019 Homecoming parking to the 2020 Summer concert series and Plaza flowers in the following amounts: \$1500 to concerts, \$770 to plaza flowers. These are both dedicated funds.
4. A motion was made by Nick and seconded by Chris to fund the Community brunch on September 9th per a request by the Strengthening Community Relations RIT in the amount of \$400.00 from the Greenwood bequest designated for Renaissance Implementation Teams (RIT)

Property report: Jean Angel, back fence area, plans for planting update, Jean Angel

Stewardship Update: primarily given during first part of meeting, with no additional info added from Chris.

Music Director Position update: the team and choir will be interviewing two candidates next week, August 29, and hope to hire one to begin in Sept.

Visit of Iraqi delegation: Terri shared with the Vestry her experience of meeting with the US Department of State sponsored delegation from Iraq, in this country to explore interfaith dialogue. It was a very good, yet highly challenging conversation that included questions from the delegation on the Episcopal Church's understanding of marriage equality, abortion, and women clergy i.e. women leading in traditional male positions.

Building Use update: the BUG recommended that the church leave only one door unlocked, which is something that Terri and the staff are following every time that is possible. There are sometimes during the week that two doors need to be unlocked for part of the day.

Terri concluded the meeting by asking the Vestry what went well and what could be done differently. Several Vestry members responded saying that the meeting went well, we covered a lot of ground, but it was all clear and manageable.

Terri closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm