

**Christ Episcopal Church, Dearborn**

**March 31, 2019**

**Vestry Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:** Lynn Becker, Darrell Donakowski, Barbara Hall, Michael Mroczyk, Holly Schanz, Chris Ventura, Revd. Terri Pilarski, Rev. Dcn. Mitch Yudasz. Guest: Jean

**Absent:** Jean Angel, James Thornton, Nick Bell, Revd. Halim Shukair

**Recording Secretary:** Mitchell Yudasz

- Terri called the meeting to order at 12:28
- Additions/changes to Agenda. Add Music Director under *Other Business*
  - Add under *Other Business*: Music Director vacancy
  - Add under *Other Business*: Committees reporting to Vestry
- Minutes of the January 28, 2019 Organizational Meeting were approved online.
- Terri offered opening prayer and meditation

**Mission Discussion**

- Implementation Team Updates:
  - Goal 2 - Strengthening Community Relations - Jean Martens
    - Purpose: Develop strategies and actions to implement the following renaissance goal: strengthening community relations, and to build relationships with wider community and broadened participation. Also to identify and describe actions for building new life outside of the parish
    - Looking at a long-term and short term approach to this goal, for example, shorter term was “Blessings in a Backpack” fundraiser on March 5.
    - Looking at various events that would fit into these categories.
    - Will look at food pantry, card ministry, and other opportunities that may fit within this goal, look into longer-term goal, and set direction.
  - Goal 1 - Increasing Spirituality - Lynn Becker
    - Lynn advised that Holly is co-chair of this goal.
    - “Stations of the Star” - teaching young children about Christ’s birth. It has been given to the Terri and Halim
    - During Fall and Spring - would like to do nature walks at Holly Nature Center.
    - Game Night - Once a month - in order to get people together.
    - Bible Study - focused more on women - similar to men’s group
    - A day out at Greenfield Village
    - Escape room to find Jesus (Hannah is working on this - broken down to kids and adults)

- Bell Choir - would like to get MOS involved as well. Waiting on a new Music Director.
- Halim's congregation will be here for Easter Vigil
- Reading and then a craft that follows.
- Long-term goal: Soup Kitchen
- Marie Stanger belongs to a coop and may look at fresh food for the pantry
- Still trying to figure out short and long term goals and will continue discussing at the next meeting.
- Terri encourages to think about spiritual components of what the goals are.
  - Terri suggested an event at the Islamic Center that Darrell is getting involved in.
- Darrel is coordinating tours of different houses of worship in Abrahamic faith, starting with an upcoming tour of the Islamic Center on Ford Rd. He will be requesting funding for this venture.
- Social Justice Goal - Diana Brehob
  - Is to find among us and our community populations disadvantaged by disparate treatment and then use the resources and talents of our parish and community to mitigate the effects of that disparate treatment.
  - Working with Halim to possibly get some members of Mother of the Savior involved.
  - Have a number of projects they have discussed, and will provide that list once it works through their committee.
  - Michael added that there is a project, working with *Healthy Dearborn* at Henry Ford Village, who do not have access to some health care options and need to get mobile. Working to get them a mobile over a five month pilot program.
    - Haven't successfully made this a church project.
    - Refining and working through specifics of the project.
    - Terri proposes getting pictures that can go on web page and Facebook site.
  - Another project: Cherry Hill and Outer Drive - Medical Center. Free services for those who do not have health care.
    - We are being invited to offer the service both at the clinic and possibly in the church building.
- Safe Church Training
  - Required to be taken through the Diocese
    - Terri was planning on a Sunday for general training, and Saturday for specific training.
    - Other option is to go to other trainings at \$50/person.

- Vestry Liaison Roles
  - As implementation teams and commissions get organized, each vestry member will choose a place where each will do their work. There will be about seven areas to consider.
- Vestry Phone Calls
  - Vestry members in the past divided parish roll and made phone calls to non-active members and also to members informing them of events in the parish.
  - Terri distributed lists to all vestry members.
  - Baptized for Life - Four workshops that need to be done.
    - Darrell, Stephanie, and Terri will be traveling to Baltimore for training in writing a project.
    - Additional trainings will be offered in the near future.

### **Commission/Activity Updates**

- Building Usage Group
  - Met in February with the Dearborn Police - Dan Bartock, and Jim Ford - heads of Security and S.W.A.T.
  - Overall Dearborn is extremely safe.
  - Important to make things as difficult as possible for potential crime.
    - Locked Doors
    - One way in and out during normal hours during the week.
    - Intercom, etc.
  - Dearborn PD will provide awareness training - do not advise for the entire congregation.
    - Ushers, ministers, etc.
    - If there are any retired police, fire, and military, those would be point people.
  - Caution the use of audio because we are a church.
  - Recommend:
    - 30 days backup on cameras.
    - Parking lot lighting
      - Possibly through diocesan grants - need to ask Mark Millioto when next grant period is.
    - Limiting open doors
      - Terri advised that Chapel doors and handicap ramp doors are the only ones open at this time.
      - Terri said the ramp door would be the choice.

- Recommend a sound (like a doorbell) when the door is opened to alert staff that someone entered.
    - Also recommend proximity cards.
  - Terri stressed that we need to maintain our open, welcome, and affirming hospitality, while still being responsible.
  - Suggest that we move to professional security cameras that will record for 30 days.
  - Margaret advised they will come back in the future with prices for some of the suggested projects.
  - Dearborn Police will come out and do awareness training one evening with ushers, vestry members, and clergy, and staff.
- FINANCE
  - Policy for discretionary funds policy was distributed by Terri.
    - These funds are restricted - religious and charitable purposes.
    - We have created a written policy just to clarify.
    - Policy has been vetted by Mark Miliotto at the EDOMI, and the finance committed.
    - Policy given for review to be approved by the vestry at the next meeting.
- PROPERTY
  - Expenses higher than usual - but expected because of the time during winter
  - Will be working on rerouting water pipes and landscape behind the church.
- STEWARDSHIP
  - This committee will be meeting soon.

### **Other Business**

- Terri passed out the Parochial report for information only. This is required by church canon and sent to the diocese. Vestry approval needed - no changes to data can be made.
  - Motion to approve the Parochial Report for 2018 by Lynn, second by Holly.  
Motion Passed.
- Music Director Position
  - Three applied: One never arrived, one showed up earlier than scheduled interview time and never came back for interview, and one interviewed but has not returned calls to Terri.
  - Terri said the process will continue.
- Abrahamic Faith - Darrell
  - Application for funds - \$15 per person for food, \$10 per person for tour of Arabic History Museum in East Dearborn.
  - This application is for money to initiate interaction with other Abrahamic Faiths.
  - April 29th, tour of Mosque at Islamic Center, lunch, and guided tour of museum.

- Future may be looking at a synagogue, the Holocaust museum, congregational church in downtown detroit (also underground railroad), CA Wright African American Museum.
- Terri suggests that Darrell email the vestry so we can look at the request for funds, where the funds should come from, or if people should pay their own way.

**New Business**

- April Vestry Meeting Change: April 25, May 2, May 5. Terri is out of town on other dates.
  - May 2, 5:30 gathering time with a meal.
- Vestry went into closed session at 2:28 pm
- Vestry went back into open session at 3:00 pm

**Adjournment**

- Terri adjourned the meeting at 3:03 pm

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Mitchell Yudasz*

**Next Vestry meetings:**

May 2: Gather at 5:30 for a meal

**Action items carried forward from prior meetings:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Resp. (name)</b>
8/19/2018	Food pantry group to be invited to provide update, overview and recommendations	tbd	[Diana] Terri
9/23/2018	Establish effective Communications; commission?	tbd	[Dennis], Darrell?
1/12/2019	Establish Staff Review & Compensation committee	April 2019	Nick / Lynn
1/12/2019	Agree policy for use of Clergy Discretionary accounts	March 2019	Treasurer/Warden
1/27/2019	Dialog on Vestry Officers for next Vestry year	Dec 2019	Wardens