

St Brendan's Vestry Meeting August 19, 2020

Minutes

The Vestry of St. Brendan's met Aug. 19, 2020. Present via zoom were Pastor Elaine Hewes, Pete Dane, George Pazuniak, Bill Scaife, Meg Graham, Tom van Buren, Jane LeChance and Curtis Flowers.

Pastor Elaine called the meeting to order. July vestry minutes were circulated and approved.

Finance

Judy Miller was appointed chair of Finance. The Gift Acceptance Committee was appointed, consisting of Elaine Hewes (ex officio), Bill Scaife (ex officio), George Pazuniak, and Woody Osborne.

Allen Downs was appointed to serve a three-year term on the Investment Committee.

The continuation of the Audit Committee consisting of Luke Williams, Kathy Burton, Martha Dane and Allen Downs, was ratified.

Bill, regarding the Financial Report, asked the Vestry to note a scheduling change. Meg briefly summarized the activity of the Investment Committee. Elaine indicated her hope that vestry questions regarding Finance might be raised and circulated by email ahead of vestry meetings if possible or following Finance report at meeting.

Ministry Moments

Pastor Elaine, commenting that St Brendan's was an unusual parish in that when weighing the balance between focus on its own finances and focus on ministry that the parish was far more heavily invested in ministry. Accordingly, she voiced her hope that as a regular practice the Vestry would receive and circulate the monthly ministry reports comfortably ahead of monthly vestry meetings so that an already informed vestry could at meeting time have a Ministry Moment, about 2 minutes each, for the four frontline ministries – Pastoral Care, Outreach, Education/Spiritual Development and Worship as well as Finance, focusing on each ministry's current highlights.

Outreach

Tom, speaking for Outreach which Jackie Wilson chairs, reported that during this time of pandemic the Outreach Ministry is directing its efforts primarily toward issues of food supply and food security. Much of this has been well led by Ann Edgerly-Moore and much done in co-ordination with other community-wide efforts. Tom further noted that Outreach now is undertaking to clarify its priorities.

Education/Spiritual Development

Jane reported for Education/Spiritual Development for which Miriam Antich is chair. The committee is evaluating the several recent book studies as well as planning new studies. Pastor Edward Dufresne's study course is underway. Elaine's Bible study begins in October. Woodley Osborne who has led the group discussions on Race will be leading the upcoming course Sacred Ground.

The **Welcome Committee** had no report. It is without a chair.

Buildings and Grounds

George reported on the upgrade to fiber optic for the internet, on Josephine Jacob and Ann Tarlton's garden work, on the moving of the containment stones, the new spigots, and on the soon-to-be-undertaken roof repair.

Worship and Music

Pete, while saying the committee has had to focus extensively on COVID related issues, also noted its continued effort to push the liturgical envelope while still honoring the familiar, its ongoing discussion of how much lay leadership is right, and on upcoming discussions on the Creed.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Elaine will be reporting on Pastoral Care monthly, for now reported how she has currently been spending her time:

- visiting each member of the congregation.
- attending all ministry meetings
- keeping up with diocesan issues,
- meeting with diocesan clergy
- meeting with other ministers in community
- meeting with social service people
- Sunday worship
- joining all zoom and book group conversations
- conversations with church neighbors

Mulling questions from Elaine:

- When and how we might return to our normal worship
- COVID Blessings
- Book Conversations
- This present Reformation Moment
- Who are we being called to be?

Question from Elaine to Vestry: What are thoughts about how to make vestry better?

- Jane: More familiarity with each ministry.
- Pete: Elaine, please ask us hard questions. About our life together. About how we tackle issues.
- Meg: I am very happy with this vestry because we have the right priorities – ministry and relationship over streamlining.
- Elaine: I'm very happy too with this vestry. I want to ask you always to communicate, not to hold back, ever, on the hard stuff.

Dates to note:

The regular vestry meeting will be the Wednesday following the third Sunday of each month.

The deadline for receipt of reports to vestry is the second Friday of each month.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis Flowers, Clerk

8/21/2020