**St. Brendan the Navigator**

**Minutes of the Vestry/Renewal Team Meeting**

**September 7, 2018**

Present: Lis Ingoldsby, Josephine Jacob, Pete Dane, Miriam Antich, Tom van Buren, Barbara Kourajian, and Father Edward Dufresne. Meg Graham called in.

Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Pete Dane offered an opening prayer.

**Review and Acceptance of the August 9th Meeting Minutes**

Pete moved to accept the Minutes of the August meeting; Miriam seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Financial Report & 2019 Budget Update**

Pete reported there has been no dramatic change. He did not have information for August yet. He said the Budget Committee met two days ago to outline how to proceed for 2019. They had these questions for the Vestry:

1) What is the deadline for the wish lists for the Ministries?

2) Do we budget for the Office Assistant and what do we budget for Clergy?

3) Is there any leeway in the Outreach budget?

We decided to ask the Ministry Chairs what deadline they could tolerate. If input is not forthcoming, Lis suggested funding them at the status quo. We want to keep the budget as is for the Office Assistant and Clergy.

Pete stated there will be a line item for depreciation in the 2019 budget. Tom raised a question about the Capital Account funds sitting at zero. Pete clarified: the checking account for the Capital Fund has been drained. Finance is considering using a good portion of the Maine Community Foundation account for a Capital Fund for the building.

**Special Parish Meeting Follow-Up**

Edward commented that we all have had some opportunity to reflect on where the congregation is. His observation was that the congregation does need time to discern. He noted that individually, not everyone has a clear idea of where we should be going and what type of model of church we are headed toward. And as a community, we have not come to a consensus as to where we are headed; there is no critical mass for a church model.

He stated that ironically, we have been mandated to carry out a high-touch, every-member stewardship campaign to see if we can finance something we are not even sure what it is. He outlined two important aspects of the campaign:

1. A very concerted effort of a trained group of people following up on pledge cards.
2. There is a consensus (super majority) where we know with certainty that at least 65-70% of our members know where we are headed in terms of a model for church and are committed to it.

He continued: If that second leg isn’t there, it’s worthless to do the first leg.

Edward’s recommendation: In the next eight months, we do the Stewardship campaign in the conventional way to insure our present level of ministry. Then, we tell the congregation we hope to accomplish funding toward a common vision once we can assure ourselves that we have that common vision. We need 65-70% of our members to support it. In the meanwhile, in small groups and in ever-increasingly larger circles, we undertake a process of discernment around three models of church.

Edward presented the models and we looked at the characteristics of each and their advantages and disadvantages. We made additions and deletions to the models. This generated a lively discussion. Comments included: looking at how we define the word “growth”; getting more summer people involved in various ways; looking at what happens on Sunday vs. what happens here the other six days of the week (might people be attracted to come here if they saw different things happening here); different means of outreach; letting the building be a workhorse for us (a community identity and money-maker); redefining the Office Assistant job.

Edward asked each of us to indicate our model preference. After more discussion we decided to include a fourth model for the parish’s consideration. Edward will do the edits on these models. From there we will be going through small group discernment of these models. He asked us to think of natural groups and suggested some Vestry members come to these group meetings. We will be asking: Is this us? Is this who we want to be? We will be asking people to vote, so we know which direction to go.

Edward stated we should really have a goal for consensus. Pete suggested our goal should be three-fourths of our 47 legal members and two-thirds of our 70 members. Tom suggested we need to communicate we are not trying to do something on a simple majority. We agreed we are not moving ahead without a distinctive majority of the legal voting members (35) and the membership (46).

More discussion is needed on how we set up small groups and conference calls for those who are inaccessible. Our responsibility is to get through these eight months in a positive way. It was suggested we have a prayer for discernment in our Sunday bulletin.

**Ministries**

We tabled our discussion of Ministries until our next meeting. Lis commented earlier in the meeting that a goal for each Ministry should be an activity or goal that reaches outside this church.

**Library Proposal**

Tom mentioned this proposal spoke to him about the larger issue of using our space. Tom supports the idea in so far as people would use the library. He commented that part of the issue in managing the library is keeping the building open and the other part is curating the collection.

**Other Business**

The Vestry/Renewal Team decided to meet on Tuesday, September 11th at 2 p.m. for a working session to review the models after edits and to discuss how best to share these outlines with the Parish.

The next Vestry/Renewal Team meeting will be October 10th at 10 a.m. Our November meeting is scheduled for November 7th at 10 a.m.

We closed the meeting by reading the Prayer of St. Brendan together. The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Barbara Kourajian,

Clerk