



Meeting of the Vestry

March 22, 2021, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Vestry members present: Jed Dennard, Martha Evans, Grant Ford, Jodie Guest, Helen Ingebritsen, Tim Kelly, Annemarie Madden, Carol Roberts, Jon-Paul Roy, Michael Tarantino

Vestry member absent: Jamie Clark

Clergy present: The Rev. Monica Mainwaring, The Rev. Colin Brown

The vestry met via Zoom video conference because of social distancing mandated by the coronavirus pandemic. Senior Warden Tim Kelly called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. and the clerk certified that a quorum was present.

Opening prayer and meditation

The rector opened the meeting with a prayer for the church and vestry member Jed Dennard gave the meditation on the third of the 12 principles set forth in *Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love*, a 12-point communication framework developed by the Mennonite Church USA. The vestry has covenanted to adhere to, and to model, these principles. The third principle: **Commit to prayer. Admit our needs and commit ourselves to pray for a mutually satisfactory solution (no prayers for my success or for the other to change but to find a joint way.** We're used to praying for our own concerns, but we also need to recognize the importance of praying for others, including our rector and our congregation, Dennard said. Recalling Paul's directive to pray without ceasing, he concluded that "the more God is part of our thought process, the more likely we are to stay on the right path..."

Old Business (Tim Kelly)

- Senior Warden Tim Kelly reopened the discussion from the March 15 vestry meeting by talking about his own progression through the five stages of forgiveness that our Lenten lecturer Father Matt Linn has outlined: Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, and Acceptance. (A copy is appended at the end.)
- The vestry concurred that we are attempting to build a bridge to reconciliation and must move forward to manage the business of the church.

Monthly Reports:

Clerk's Report (Martha Evans)

- The vestry approved the minutes for the regular Feb. 15 vestry meeting.
- Next vestry meeting: Monday, April 19, 5-7 p.m. via Zoom. Vestry member Jodie Guest will offer the meditation.

Rector's Report (Monica Mainwaring)

- We held our first indoor worship service since the start of the pandemic on March 21.
- Easter services have already been announced.
 - The bishop will join us for the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening before Easter Sunday.
 - Five babies will be baptized on Easter Sunday.
- On Sunday, April 11, we will adjust the start times for Christian formation and the livestreamed service in anticipation of adding a new service on April 18 designed to engage more families with children and youth.
 - Effective April 11, Christian formation moves to 10:10 a.m.
 - Also on April 11, the traditional livestreamed worship service will begin at 11 a.m. and may be followed by a second outdoor service at noon if there are significant requests for that service.
 - Beginning on April 18, the Children/Youth Revisioning team will offer the inaugural session of Wonder Church, an informal outdoor service targeted at children and youth. This option will begin at 9 a.m.
- The rector and vestry members Helen Ingebritsen and Martha Evans met with a consultant to discuss how to conduct a search for new music leadership during a pandemic. Fortunately, interim organist Keith Nash has agreed to stay on through the end of the year, if needed.
- The Stewardship Commission has been meeting regularly and has agreed to push our pledge drive up to August to avoid the Advent/Christmas season.
- The Suthers Center food pantry operation is going strong. On May 1, Suthers will relaunch the Emergency Assistance program, which also will be located on the church campus.

Senior Warden's Report (Tim Kelly)

- Vestry members Jon-Paul Roy and Carol Roberts, both of whom were elected to two-year unexpired vestry terms, have agreed to extend their time on the vestry by one year to complete the unexpired terms of Becky Short and Clay Wardlaw. Both Short and Wardlaw recently resigned.
- The vestry approved Kelly's nomination of Martha Evans to serve as treasurer for the remainder of the year. A replacement is needed for her current position as clerk.

Finance Report (Business Administrator Leslie Rose)

- We maintained a balanced budget in February with expenses under budget in most areas.
- March will be a strong month with prepayment in full of several pledges.
- We will get an updated budget reflecting 2021 pledges at the next meeting.
- We do not qualify to apply for additional federal pandemic relief because our cash flow did not dip by 25 percent below the previous year in any one quarter last year. "That's worth celebrating!" Rose said.

Administrative Commission and Junior Warden's Report (Annemarie Madden)

- We will ask the Endowment Fund to fund restoration of the bride's room after flooding, as well as continued restoration work in the courtyard.
- We are moving to biweekly landscaping service.

Prayer and adjournment (Colin Brown)

- Before asking the associate rector to give the closing prayer, the rector commended him for his flexibility in managing the ever-shifting types and times of worship during the pandemic, as well as for his overall ministry at the church.
- The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The Five Stages of Forgiveness (Kubler-Ross)

- 1. Denial- there is nothing to forgive, no need to be angry (I am fine)**
Need: security, gratitude for positive memories so negative can spontaneously surface
e.g. 2 Sam 11 - David is undisturbed by killing Uriah to get Bathsheba
Peter (Mk 14:66-72) - Denies that he will desert Christ. Denies 3x before seeing it as evil.
Prodigal son (Lk 15:11-32) - Feels that share is his right & ignores how it hurts his father.
Luke (7:36-50) - Simon Pharisee sees not himself but woman as sinner dishonoring Christ.
Adulteress (John 8:1-11) - Those stoning deny their own guilt and need for repentance.
- 2. Anger - there is too much to forgive. The cost is too great, the secondary gains too much to set aside. Why did they hurt me so much? (Why me?) They must change.**
Need: How Jesus is also angry at ways I was hurt and wants to heal me; intercession to heal my antagonist of his wounds also heals me as I become a wounded healer rather than a victim.
e.g. 2 Sam 11 - David gets angry against man who killed the lamb in Nathan's story.
Peter - After first two denials, Peter curses, swears at servant girl.
Prodigal son - Anger at servants being able to eat while he dies of hunger.
Luke 7 - Simon is angry at having a sinner in his house and also slights Christ.
Adulteress - Men angrily question Christ and are ready to stone the woman.
- 3. Bargaining - Conditional forgiving (yes, but...). I will forgive him, but he must first (change, apologize, get help, promise never to do it again, suffer, learn, make amends, etc.)**
Need: To discover where I am still demanding change because I am wounded & need healing & what changes I should in love demand. Forgiving with Christ's forgiveness.
e.g. 2 Sam 11 - David ready to forgive lamb's killer if makes 4 fold restitution.
Peter - John 21 Christ forgives Peter's denial when Peter can't forgive himself.
Prodigal son - Forgive me conditionally. Accept me as your servant, not as son.
Luke 7 - Simon can't see his inability to forgive the woman because he thinks forgiveness must be earned by love rather than given & producing love (Lk 7:47)
Adulteress - The men cancel any way forgiveness can be earned or given.
- 4. Depression - Anger is turned away from another & turned to oneself. I must change. Guilt arises - Why did I react so small? Overreact? Why am I so easily closed up? Why do I hurt others as I have been hurt? How am I part of the problem? How be as Christ?**
Need: With Jesus to hate my sin but love the sinner, healing of shame blocking me from Jesus' healing love, changing what I can change & growing where unchanged, confession & amends.
e.g. 2 Sam 11 - David weeps, fasts, prays, & tries to correct his sin.
Peter - After denial Peter weeps, & knows he must depend on Christ, not himself.
Prodigal son - "I have sinned, I no longer deserve to be called your son. . ."
Luke 7 - Christ wants Simon to recognize himself, not the woman, as the sinner.
Adulteress - Christ asks who has no sin & forgives adulteress, "Go & sin no more."
- 5. Acceptance - the person can accept himself and thank God for the growth that occurred. The gifts of the beatitudes are given whenever a hurt is healed.**
Need: To know how deeply I am loved in my weakness so I can risk giving that love to those weak.
e.g. 2 Sam 11 - At death of son, David changes clothes, stops weeping, and consoles.
Peter - Christ wants total love (agape) but accepts Peter's weaker caring (phileo). Peter humbly owning his dependence on Christ, can now be a leader (John 21).
Prodigal - The father, unlike the elder son, unconditionally accepts both sons.
Luke 7 - Her sins were forgiven and that is why she can reach out in great love.
Adulteress - "No one accuses you? Neither do I condemn you. Go & sin no more."