



Meeting of the Vestry
September 19, 2023, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Vestry members present: Leslie Uddin, Scott Madden, Nancy Easterlin-Smith, Chris Elwell, Jim Reese, Gay Jolley, Grant Ford, Martha Evans, Diana Parise, Man Martin, and Jed Dennard; via Zoom: N/A; Absent: Caroline Rose

Clergy present: The Rev. Monica Mainwaring

Guest present: Brad Ferrer

Call to order: The Vestry met in person in the library of the Church. Monica called the meeting to order. Clerk certified a quorum and Man Martin led us in the opening prayer.

Dwelling in the Word: Grant read a passage from Luke (13:6-9). Last vestry meeting we talked about how to recognize when God tells us, "Enough is enough, be done with this, it's over." This month, we think about when God is telling us to stay the course and be patient. Wonder Church, Stay tuned in even when things are going okay, don't try to dictate everything - have a little faith, take advice from those who have the expertise (and have hope), sit still and listen (and let God guide us), have firm opinions but hold them loosely, we don't know how things will turn out - there are times when we should act and times when it is best for us not to act; be certain before you cut the tree, have you looked at it through another lens first; hard to be patient and see that time is relative (my view, God's view, ...); have patience and communicate.

Clerk's Report (Scott Madden):

- Vestry approved the August minutes with minor adjustments.
- The next Vestry meeting will be Tuesday, October 17th (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm) followed by dinner.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Advent Party, December 8th (with white elephant gift exchange)
- Vestry Future Meetings: 10/17, 11/14, and 12/19 (if needed)
- On October 15th, youth will serve food at Holy Comforter
- Youth Fall Festival will be October 28th
- You are invited to feed the youth on any Sunday evening

New Business:

2023 Priorities & Strategic Planning: Grant Ford, Diana Parise

- Strategic Plan and Church / School Relationship
- Vestry moved into Executive Session regarding initiative A with Brad Ferrer at 6:20 pm and exited Executive session at 6:37 pm

- Initiative D - Expand offerings for life stages - progress has been made in middle school and is moving forward with late adulthood/retirees; the next priority is young adults.
- Initiative C - This has evolved (Annemarie, Chris, and Louisa) - started with healing exiled families; needed to broaden it; evolved into improving communication and conflict management skills at SMEC; further evolved into building a new sense of community for parishioners (more positive tone); effective use of resources to maximize an understanding of church governance (tackling a different thing altogether). Bringing it back to Vestry because there is not a good list of action items for this initiative. Hoping to get feedback from Vestry about essentials for this initiative. If not clear, should it be set aside for now and something else picked up?

Idea - maybe elevate the Kitchen as an initiative (something parishioners can touch and feel) to increase the sense of community inside the church. There is a lot in evolution #3 of this initiative that could be actionable.

Question - did the focus groups provide feedback on this initiative? The reference team worked with a consultant; the team reviewed their results with the Vestry (2 years ago) with 5 recommendations. There are families that participated in the reference team who want to know what came out of it. They may not have found closure from the process. The strategic plan should be communicated to the parishioners as well as the Vestry. The Strategic Planning committee will follow up with Chris / Annemarie regarding how to provide feedback most effectively. The Reference team is trying to acknowledge that we had unintended consequences in the past and are not sure that we have learned so that we will not avoid falling into that same trap again. They are looking for a way to mitigate those consequences by re-visiting the issue.

- Streamlined the formation to use the catechism (back to basics) to get more energy - no other competing offerings to build a strong base. Discussed options around formation including a short book reading (w/discussion); Foyer's dinner group...

Liaison Reports:

Junior Warden's Report: Martha Evans

- Moved ahead with the request to endowment
- The classroom is dry (even after the rain) and the room looks great. Admin commission did a tour of lower Pierce - it is ready to be used now.
- Floors should remain covered, so we do not have to remediate the asbestos underneath. Lower Gable is already finished and looks great.

Treasurer's Report: Jed Dennard

- We started the year with a budget shortfall of \$249,982. In August, the expenses exceeded revenues by \$63,466. The YTD deficit is now \$278,305. In August, we sold another \$45,000 in investments to maintain cash position.
- The remaining four months of the year should see an uptick in revenues as pledges come in.
- Expect about a \$135k deficit for 2023 based on current projections.
- ERC is shelved for this year due to the IRS.

Senior Warden's Report: Grant Ford

- We have committed as a Vestry to bring the food for this as a fundraiser. The date of the Fall Festival is October 21st (11 am - 3 pm).

Associate Rector's Report: Colin Brown

- Held training for youth leaders, hosted a parent info meeting, and produced a youth leader manual.

Rector's Report: Monica Mainwaring

- Molly Herman-Gallow has been nominated for Ordination - this was motioned and approved unanimously by the Vestry.
- Bishop will be here on November 5th - please wear your Vestry badge.
- Do we exist for our sake, or are we looking outside
- Be thinking about your role on Vestry in the next year

Closing prayer (Monica Mainwaring)