



# St. Martin in the Fields

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Meeting of the Vestry  
March 21, 2023, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

**Vestry members present:** Man Martin, Caroline Rose, Leslie Uddin, Nancy Easterlin-Smith, Chris Elwell, Scott Madden, Jed Dennard, Jim Reese, Gay Jolley, Martha Evans (Zoom), Grant Ford, Diana Parise

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

**Guests present:** Mitchell Haas, Brad Ferrer

**Call to order:** The Vestry met in person in the library of the Church. Clerk certified a quorum and Mother Monica called the meeting to order at 5:00 and led us in the opening prayer.

**Dwelling in the Word:** Nancy Easterlin-Smith read a passage – Matthew 4:18-20 (“Come, follow me.”) Catch people at the proper time; come to them from the right place (Jesus has made a difference in my life, and I want you to come and see); invite them to serve – Suthers, etc.; step out of your comfort zone to welcome guests. Evangelize with your actions (not just your words); Be brave (invite someone to church); social media can be used for church. Share the good news with your friends, family, and others.

**Clerk's report** (Scott Madden):

- Vestry approved the February minutes as amended.
- The next Vestry meeting will be Tuesday, April 18th (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm).

**(EPN) Episcopal Parish Network (Brad Ferrer, Mitchell Haas, Monica Mainwaring):**

- Topics included endowment and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) concerns. The Church is asking the endowment fund to focus more on ESG (ethical investing). Currently, the endowment fund is invested in ETFs, so it would take some work to move to ESG investments.
- Care, Loyalty, and Obedience are duties of a board member on Endowment. Finding the right median regarding these duties will be the goal of the Endowment Board.
- Transparency – seeing the upcoming projects and sharing them with the parishioners would be helpful; publishing financials, investments, board members, etc. to make the church membership more aware and comfortable with the endowment fund.
- Seeking funds (especially through planned giving) is a big opportunity for the endowment fund. We need a plan for this because it is currently not being advertised.

- Gay – Mary Erickson used to present a class on preparing for your end of life (burial, service, endowment, etc.); we should re-start this practice multiple sessions per year (clergy + endowment)
- Thinking about our property – a big asset – should follow the mission of the church.
- Members of the endowment fund are elected for 5-year terms and can serve for two consecutive terms.
- Re-imagine the context of the church and how it can influence your mission.
- Stop lamenting and start leading (the charge from the keynote speaker)

**Rector's report (Monica Mainwaring):**

- Vestry is to cover the One St. Martins meal on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Nursery Lead – Sydney Phillips (hired)
- Molly Herman-Gallow – will take the role of Director of Children and Youth (Ethan will be leaving to work with Camp Mikell at the end of May)
- Open position for PT Communications Director
- Dr. Ottley was ordained last weekend – well wishes have been communicated.
- During Monica's sabbatical, Colin will lead worship and pastoral care, with several guest preachers scheduled. Rick Callaway will support Colin throughout the summer and preach for 2 or 3 Sundays.

**Assoc. Rector's report (Colin Brown):**

- Ethan has done a great job engaging with youth - we will miss his energy.
- Looking forward to Molly bringing her energy with children to the youth program. Having continuity of staff for all ages of children will pay dividends.
- A new "Leader Manual" for youth will be written specifically in our context and presented to leaders of formation this summer.
- We will kick off the next year of formation with a party. Confirmation classes will be from August through October during the formation hour (Bishop will be coming November 5<sup>th</sup> to confi).
- Want to make sure to attack the 'gaps' we have in the cradle-to-college plan for children and youth at church. She will reach out to specifically middle-school-aged families to try to re-engage them. We expect a slow climb, but we are committed to doing the work.
- VBS is currently under-subscribed (ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) – talk it up!
- A new class of Stephens ministers – Hybrid – is being trained.

**Treasurer's Report (Jed Dennard):**

- Pledges are well ahead of where we were last year – good news.
- Our deficit for the month of February was \$51k, and the YTD deficit is now \$138k.
- Timing differences are responsible for much of the deficit.
- We have more than \$250k in a Synovus account – looking at options for securing the amount above the FDIC threshold. We could invest in Treasuries using a sweep account and earn a return on the balance.

- Need to determine if we are a separate corporation from Suthers Center (they have a large account at Synovus too) for banking purposes. Would that impact us if there was an FDIC issue?
- Endowment – non-operating revenues (so we do not pay 10% to the diocese) since they pay our capital expenses (generally).

**Junior Warden's Report (Martha Evans):**

- The proposal from the administrative commission is to spend \$75k on roof and window seal system remediation and a kitchen fire suppression system, among other items for remediating issues with the building. The vestry discussed the proposal and approved it unanimously.

**Senior Warden's Report (Grant Ford):**

- The strategic planning commission met and have some action items to get some quick wins.

**Stewardship Report (Man Martin):**

- 24 calls per month is Man's goal.
- There is a script to follow – one call per vestry member.
- There was discussion about the script and the discomfort of some vestry in using it as written.
- Each vestry member present will reach out to one family before the next meeting.
- Man and Diana will re-work the script before the vestry makes their calls.

**Closing prayer (Monica Mainwaring)**