



**Meeting of the Vestry
21 June 2021, 5 – 7 p.m.**

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

Vestry members absent: None

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

Call to Order

The vestry met via Zoom video conference due to social distancing mandates. Senior Warden Tim Kelly called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. Clerk certified quorum was present.

Opening prayer and meditation

The Rev Colin Brown opened the meeting calling all Christians for vocations. Martha Evans delivered the meditation on listening. Too often we want to be understood before we understand building undo stress, tension, and distance in relationships. She encouraged us to intentionally be more “quick to listen and slow to speak” as we go about our daily interactions.

Clerk’s Report (Jon Roy)

- The May minutes were approved unanimously.
- The next vestry meeting is Monday, 16 August, 5-7pm. No July meeting. Helen Ingebritsen and Annemarie Madden will provide meditations on being slow to judge and willing to negotiate.
- A vestry retreat is being considered for October 22-24 pending Covid guidelines. Starting Feb 2022, vestry will resume its normal retreat schedule to kick-off the year with new vestry members.
- Addie Tyler’s ordination will be June 26th and she will be serving in the Diocese of Arkansas at St. Paul's.

Senior Warden’s Report (Tim Kelly)

- Endowment Fund Trust: The Fund unanimously approved the following gifts:
 - \$1,273 Suthers Center Food pantry
 - \$21k for new chairs in Gable Hall. Bill Goodhew is leading initiative during summer months.

- \$16k Maintenance items including new toilets, Ring security for Gable Hall, and HVAC updates
- \$38k to replace select windows in Gable, Pierce, the Lobby, Parlor and Church Offices
- Columbarium: need to address qualified requests, initial and on-going expenses, and alignment to Memorial Fund.
- Vestry unanimously approved Diocesan commitment at required 10% funding level.

Rector's Report (Monica Mainwaring)

With gratitude for Vestry during crisis, we now need to move beyond to daily mode. Big current issues are School, CRT, and Mission

- Strategic planning and alignment needs to move forward before next year in preparation for October retreat. Where are we headed as mainline church and SMEC to better fulfill our mission of *following Christ and leading others to him*.
- Borrowing for new capital projects limited by property lien to benefit school loan; no actual dollars.
- SMEC likely extending agreement for school to use 3 of 5 classrooms for 2021-22.
- Suther's Center is looking for new Thrift Shop space.
- Music minister search expected to be settled within two weeks between 2 final candidates.
- Coordinate La Amistad (<https://www.laamistadinc.org/>) program for kids free and reduced lunch between church and school. Need to consider outreach overlap with existing PathToShine program with Woodward and church volunteers. Action to clarify what we are signing up for in terms of partnership costs and any additional commitments.

Associate Rector's Report (Colin Brown)

- Several enhancements to our services kicked off at Pentecost including returns to choir singing, processions, and more live music.
- Wonder Church continues to build a stronger following.
- Pastoral care has been difficult over past year and took away all in-person and other key tools. Colin and Monica have been trading off weeks of being pastoral lead. A couple of bright spots include beginning a "calling" ministry and restarting Eucharistic-visits.

Finance Commission and Treasurer's Report (Martha Evans)

- Audit was completed with "clean" verbal approval.
- Financials are still in black although buffer is slimming. Giving for month was short 52%. While June is trending up, we are also approaching summer vacations which tend to fall.
- Highlighted facility management budget as item to watch, but due to several unexpected problems and temporary Sexton duties.
- Jon Roy asked that we take a deeper look at faith-based budget during August session.

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

- HVAC catastrophe brewing due to equipment age and potential to fail.
- After evaluating several bids, the proposed solution was a 3-year contract of \$33,256/year (not including the \$9500 chemical pot feeder that will be funded by the Endowment Fund), and the proposal from Emcor is effectively an insurance policy for warranty and maintenance needs. Other bids were about same for less coverage. Jon suggested adjusting budget elsewhere to cover this critical path expense and include line item in budget going forward for this and other facilities. The vestry unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS – Cooperative by Design, David Brubaker

- SMEC has been facing a series of difficult times that the vestry and clergy feel deserve some guided reflection and self-assessment. On recommendation from the Bishop, the Rector, Senior and Junior Warden evaluated several third-parties to help us address strategic direction and communication challenges in order to best reinvest ourselves to deliver on our mission for the next 70+ years.
- David Brubaker presented his philosophy, approach, expectations, and costs to the vestry for a 6-9 month engagement.
 - Months 1-3: LISTENING -Survey, Small Groups, Ref team; STARTING 3q21
 - Months 4-5: ASSESS -understanding and testing
 - Months 6-9: IMPLEMENT – create sustainable change across the church with initial best-practices and guidance.
- The vestry unanimously approved moving forward with next steps being:
 - Identify funding source since this was unbudgeted
 - Select 6-8 people from vestry and different parts of congregation (not clergy) to participate on a “reference team” to lead the broader change-initiative within the church.

Prayer and adjournment:

- The rector closed with a prayer to move us forward with one another.
- Vestry adjourned at 7:23 p.m.