



**Meeting of the Vestry
19 April 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 because of social distancing mandated by the coronavirus pandemic. Senior Warden Tim Kelly called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. and certified quorum was present. Monica introduced Martha Evans as the new Treasurer (elected at the March 22 meeting) and Jon Roy was unanimously elected to replace her as clerk.

Opening prayer and meditation

The rector opened the meeting with prayer and vestry member Jodie Guest gave the meditation to deepen our connections with God and people while in person and remote. This is a great time to show how much we care, so that we can safely be together again. “Why wouldn't we do this for each other?” Jodie asked.

Strategic Planning: Worship/Formation/Music

- Vestry member Jed Dennard presented a proposal from the Children/Youth Revisioning team to revamp the Sunday schedule and program offerings as a way to get more children and families involved. While a more fully developed proposal will be provided, Dennard said the team wanted guidance from the vestry on whether it is headed in the right direction. **The vestry responded enthusiastically and concurred with the rector's suggestion that we use the time immediately after Easter and before the summer lull to experiment with a new schedule.** The new schedule in brief:
 - Outdoor in-person worship at 9 a.m. with emphasis on child/family engagement
 - Christian formation at 10:10 a.m.
 - Indoor in-person & Livestreamed worship at 11 a.m.
- More complete implementation of the revitalized approach will hinge on a post-pandemic return to normalcy, ideally this coming August. At that time, the vision is to implement this schedule and approach:
 - Traditional service without music: 8 a.m.
 - Child/youth/family friendly service: 9 a.m. This service would be more participatory, with lively music.
 - Christian formation: 10:10 a.m. The goal is to offer a smorgasbord of interdisciplinary, intergenerational programs that will appeal to ages, as well as more traditional class options.
 - Traditional service (formerly the 10:30 service) with music and choir: 11 a.m.

- Two concerns surfaced during the discussion.
 - Vestry member Helen Ingebritsen said she's concerned that getting enough volunteers to support the initiative "will be a huge challenge." In response, the rector said she has already asked the associate rector to identify and recruit volunteers. Molly Herman-Gallow, the director of children's ministry, also is tasked with recruiting and supporting volunteers for the children's ministry.
 - Senior Warden Tim Kelly suggested we need a parallel effort to ensure that the traditional worship service is as engaging for older adults as the youth-focused service will be for youth. The rector concurred.
- With music being such an integral part of worship, the planning process also must address how best to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of longtime organist and choir director Ingrid Siegert. The vestry concurred that the rector should continue the search process which began in February with parishioners completing a brief survey about their music preferences, followed by a Zoom listening session to get more direct input. A search team has been formed and they are discerning about our music leadership.

Monthly Reports:

Clerk's Report (Martha Evans, Jon Roy)

- The vestry approved the minutes for the regular March 15th and supplemental March 22nd vestry meetings.
- Next vestry meeting: Monday, May 17th, 5-7 p.m. via Zoom. Vestry member Grant Ford will offer the meditation.
- Two training activities were offered to the Vestry and RSVPs requested
 - LMPC Mediation Training, May 3-7
 - SMES Communicators Training, May 10-11

Executive Commission and Senior Warden's Report (Tim Kelly)

- Thanked Martha and Jon for filling and extending terms of Treasurer and Clerk
- Jamie Clark has stepped down from vestry leaving one open position. Vestry appoints someone to fulfill the remainder of an unexpired elected term. Gay Jolley, a long-standing, active member with history, energy, and a voice for things has agreed to serve. She was nominated by Kelly and seconded by Madden.
- Other names were introduced and Kelly said all would be placed on a list for consideration by the nominating committee for the next vestry election.
- Gay was unanimously elected to fulfill the remainder of Jaime's term.

Rector's Report (Monica Mainwaring)

- Services
 - Wonder Church is a new service offered at 9am, serving children and young families. The first one was on April 18 and delivered fantastic energy and attendance. Some new families and others came back after being away for over a year. This was a great example of empowered lay leaders like the Dennards, Elizabeth Beck, Elizabeth Deck, Chris Elwell, Man Martin, Nancy Smith, Leslie Uddin, and Heather Zunzunegui who along with clergy

(Monica and Colin) and staff (Caroline, Molly and Keith) support made it happen.

- Our 11am indoor service remains undersubscribed. Was it premature to return? Helen suggested it may increase as members get through full vaccination cycle. We should revisit in two weeks to see if it makes sense to suspend noon outdoor. Clergy will speak with attendees about comfort with safety indoor/outdoor.
 - Sunday April 4/25 is Senior (Grade12) celebration; a few are scheduled to lead 11am service and others writing bios.
- The 12pm outdoor service has been fortunate to have good weather and participation.
- Baptisms have been happening quite frequently.
- Next month teacher appreciation.
- Confirmation has several adults in class. Confirmation at individual churches not likely until 2023. Next community confirmation is scheduled for May 8th Holy Innocents, hosting. Two-four of St. Martin's parishioners plan to be confirmed.
- Music minister search continues. We have received some unsolicited inquiries. However, we are finding that the Guild's pay scale for years' experience & degree is not within current budget. A job description is being refined by search commission including Martha, Helen, & Vince with the rector.
- Stewardship chairs will be Mike & Heidi Mulling. Leslie Rose and Jed Dennard and the rector are supporting. The kickoff will be shifting earlier to Aug/Sep instead of traditional November to allow the campaign to wrap up before end of year and provide clarity on 2022 budget.
- Youth minister search continues for a part-time person targeted to start as early as June, as late as mid-July in order to kickoff new programs aligned to August school year.
- Sexton search accelerating as we need to stay ahead of backlog of events; baptisms, confirmation, weddings, church gatherings, etc.

Associate Rector's Report (Colin Brown)

- The first Wonder Church was REALLY good and can only get better. As a parent he was very happy with the turnout and atmosphere.

Finance Commission and Treasurer's Report (Martha Evans)

- Jed Dennard was elected as voting member to Commission along with the Rector, Kelly, Alexander, Madden, Palmer, Rose, and Ross.
- Off to a good start with respect to pledges especially as people return to campus, both outdoors and in.
- Expenses were below budget while revenues were significantly ahead resulting in over \$63,500 upside. Evans urges caution for later months as surplus came from some members paying pledges in full early.
- Areas to refine going forward include building taxes into budget and leakage from digital giving fees. Evans urged educating donors to use check or bank draft to save fee drag or to chip in extra fee amount if using credit card.

Outreach Commission Report (Carol Roberts)

- The Endowment fund approved a scaled down grant of \$33,790 to the following:
 - \$10000 Holy Comforter
 - \$10000 IOH

- \$7500 Emmaus House
- \$6290 Path to Shine
- Next meeting of Outreach Commission is on May 10th.
- Liaisons were appointed to five major outreach partners to improve communications, timing, and visibility.
- St. Elizabeth's guild met last week and prepared box dinners that Holy Comforter is distributing to 55 families. This was designed as an alternative to preCovid Wednesday night dinners.
- Rector mentioned a 4/20 Earth Day presentation on "Food Justice" related to GIPL, Green Team, and Food Pantry.

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

- Brides room being re-carpeted and ready for first wedding in June
- Courtyard project is progressing with expected finish in late April
 - Fenced in HVAC area
 - Stonework for enhanced drainage
- A raised platform deck will be built to better accommodate drainage and ground slope grade.
- Landscapers contracted for regular service and irrigation including prayer garden. This will reclaim and maintain outdoor services for better post-covid optional use of our campus.
- Exploring new quotes for HVAC maintenance contract. Alerted vestry that replacement will likely be the next big capital expense.
- GIPL presentation is Tue 4/20 - this qualifies us to request more grant money to subsidize projects to further our environmental stewardship.
- Replacing two toilets in women's lobby bathroom.

NEW BUSINESS - Children and Youth Revisioning – Jed Dennard

- Jed Dennard is liaison to the Children/Youth Revisioning Commission. The commission has been leading the revisioning efforts and published a draft of mission, values, and goals.
- MISSION: St. Martin's children and youth ministry joyfully welcomes all to explore faith, excite the soul, and grow spiritually in the love of Christ.
- 4 key revisioning areas include:
 - Children & Youth in Worship and Formation
 - A Safe & Desirable Community
 - Service & Mission to others
 - Operations: Attendance, Training, & Staffing
- Wonder Church was held up as initial prototype for a cradle-to-college set of programs. Concerns arose about how to coordinate, staff, and deliver appropriate curriculum to drive inter-generational participation. Some require little upfront while programs like J2A require a high-degree of commitment and age-specific curriculum.
- Open-concept formation
 - At least one monthly meal with short intergenerational topic
 - Menu of options for other 3 weeks ranging from single-session to semester long topics. We may get more people to participate and lead if commitment is less. Time slots would be 35-45 minutes in order to allow transition and informal social time between services.
 - Expect an August start to give time to organize adult and align with new Youth Minister.

- Plug into external programs
 - There are many great programs led at Diocesan or other charitable organizations. Our money and efforts do not all need to be invented or led by St. Martins.
 - Link multigenerational volunteer - always a place to plug in; learn from others
 - Plug into Diocesan programs - a function of youth minister to help plug in
 - May open some International volunteer opportunities beyond J2A pilgrimage, which provides exposure to more worldly experiences and cultures.
 - Several examples were shared around how multi-age on-site and off-site opportunities are available through Habitat for Humanity including Bishop Wright's new board position.
- Attendance, Train, Staff
 - Leverage REALM to create more visibility and ease of volunteering to lead or participate.
 - Consider offering church-wide “safeguarding” curriculum to all as a differentiator for St. Martin's inclusive community and way to make it easier for all to volunteer in various capacities on and off campus.

Prayer and adjournment:

- Senior Warden checked with the group to see how everyone was doing relative to recent events.
- The rector closed with a prayer for unity of the church
- Vestry adjourned at 7:02 p.m.