



Meeting of the Vestry  
September 19, 2022, 5-7 pm

***Vestry members present:*** Jed Dennard, Nancy Easterlin-Smith, Martha Evans, Grant Ford, Jodie Guest, Gay Jolley, Man Martin, Jim Reese, Carol Roberts, Caroline Rose, Jon-Paul Roy, Leslie Uddin

***Vestry members absent:*** Man Martin

***Clergy present:*** The Rev. Monica Mainwaring

**Call to order:** The Vestry met in person in the library of the Church with the option to join via Zoom. Clerk certified a quorum then Mother Monica called the meeting to order shortly after 5:00 and led us in opening prayer.

**Dwelling in the Word:** Vestry read the lectionary passage from scripture, Luke 16:19-31, then discussed our observations and relation to what we may be currently facing.

**Clerk's report (Caroline Rose):**

- Vestry approved August minutes.
- Next Vestry meeting scheduled for October 17.
- Grant Ford will write Vestry update for November newsletter.

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

- Rector attended week-long retreat at Ignatius House with parishioners Man Martin, Chris Elwell, and Annemarie Madden, concluding a 2-year program through the College of Congregational Development that teaches skills to develop more faithful, healthy, effective communities of faith.
- Ethan Page has been successfully onboarded as new Coordinator for Youth Ministries.
- Following Rector's return from Greece as part of her continuing education, where she followed the footsteps of St. Paul's second missionary journey, some parishioners have expressed interest in organizing a pilgrimage. Rector will explore options during Clergy conference as well as gauge interest among passionate lay leaders to organize.

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

- Pledges were up \$2268 in September.
- Year-to-date expenses have exceeded revenues by \$123,785, closing the initial 2022 budget shortfall of \$337,098.
- August revenues of \$171,444 were \$86,973 above budget, namely due to Endowment gifts to refurbish youth room and fund new flooring in Gable Hall, handbell expenses and Lower Gable Hall refurbishments.
- Expenses of \$156,561 were also above budget by \$52,144, mainly due to auditing fees, quarterly HVAC maintenance, DeKalb taxes for stormwater and streetlights, and annual property and liability insurance, which SMES has advised us will increase by 15% in 2023.
- Investment and Endowment accounts down slightly in August due to market volatility.

**Senior Warden's report (Martha Evans):**

- Nominating Committee has finalized a slate of seven 2023-26 Vestry candidates. Voting will take place October 16 and 23 using an online voting tool at the Church that will be staffed by current Vestry Members. Candidate profiles/photos will be included in e-news/bulletin prior to election.
- Shared examples of possible options to mark memorials in the Prayer Garden as we seek to make the space more intentional. More discussion to come.

**Junior Warden's report (Grant Ford):**

- Renovations funded by Endowment, including the replacement of carpet in Lower Gable Hall with laminate that looks like hardwood, additional seating (chairs, benches), and improvements for handbell choir, should be completed within the next three weeks.
- Water fountains that are no longer operational will be replaced with three new ones that allow you to fill up your water bottle.

**Liaison reports :**

- Outreach/Carol Roberts: Outreach Committee approved 17K in grants in September, including 10K for IOH, 5K for Path to Shine, and 2K to AMIS. Endowment considering funding a 7.5K grant for Emmaus House, and there is a remaining 4K for Outreach.
- Suthers Center/Jim Reese: Suthers has resources to fund a year's lease and is moving forward to determine size, scope, and location of new site to house Thrift Shop and Emergency Assistance.

**New business:**

- 2023 Budget and Strategic Planning Process/Grant Ford and Jed Dennard: Met with Finance Committee to have a more strategic discussion around our budgeting process and explore how we can grow over what we can cut. How can we think about utilizing resources differently to fund the kinds of programs that will help fulfill our vision for the Church? Grant will share update on October 2.
- DEIB/Monica Mainwaring: Those who attended shared positive feedback from the Equitable Dinner (Breakfast for SMEC), a collaborative, city-wide event to inspire positive community action for moving forward together. Vestry expressed support for incorporating the topic of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging into other aspects of the Church, such as Formation and Lenten Series. Vestry also expressed support for SMES DEIB Strategic Plan.

**Executive Session****Closing prayer (Monica Mainwaring)**