

St, Thomas Episcopal Church

April 29, 2020

5:00 pm

Emergency Vestry Meeting via Zoom

Re: Due to COVID-19 - Small Business Administration 's Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP)

Attending: The Reverend Canon Lisa Fry, The Reverend Abbey Pettee; Carlos Mello, Senior Warden; Edmund Hartt, Junior Warden; Brother Donovan Bowley, Fred Bucklin, Bill Freeman, Sarah Groman, Dean Jackson, Jen Johanson, Barbara Kent Lawrence, Elizabeth Moran, Eileen Morelli, Terry Mello, Treasurer; Shirley Fierro, Clerk. The meeting opened in prayer led by the Rector:

COVID-19 update from the Rector:

re: Worship etc. We will begin phased in worship June 1st.

- Groups of 50 or less
- Will entail getting people to commit to a service at 7:30, or 9, or 10:30am. Overflow in Parish Hall. We will also stream services for those who aren't comfortable coming in. (Compromised immune systems. Medical conditions. Those who are ill.)
- Communion from a station—6 feet apart (no wine)
- People will need to be at least 6' apart and in every other pew. Families together.
- No passing of the peace or passing the offering plate.
- Masks worn by all.
- Most likely no coffee hour for a while.
- Continue streaming Noonday Prayer and Compline

St. Thomas' Participation in the Diocese of Maine – SBA Paycheck Protection Program Loan:

The Rector presented the Diocese of Maine's application under the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program. The Diocese has been approved by the SBA for a total PPP loan of \$1,074,900.00, of which St. Thomas' portion would be \$24,600.00, or 2.29% of the total loan. The proceeds from this loan will be forgivable if utilized for: payroll costs; certain employee benefits; utilities; rent; and interest on indebtedness.

Those present entered into a discussion of the terms of the loan; how the amount of the total loan was determined and how it was allocated amongst the various parishes; the benefits of accepting the proceeds; concerns such acceptance would have on the ability of others in need to receive federal funding; and our role as a faith-based, donor supported organization and the inappropriate nature of receiving federal support. Vestry discussed all the ramifications of both accepting and not accepting this Diocesan loan to help us through the Pandemic. We were not in complete agreement, but everyone had a chance to respectfully have their say, be heard, and contribute to the decision.

After a lengthy discussion, Elizabeth made a motion to vote on acceptance of the PPP loan proceeds. Fred seconded. The vote was 9-2 in favor of accepting the PPP loan.

This special meeting of the Vestry ended at 5:50 p.m with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shirley F. Fierro
Clerk