

ST. THOMAS VIRTUAL (Zoom) VESTRY MEETING

September 28, 2020

5:30 p.m.

Present: The Rev Canon Lisa Fry, Rector; The Reverend Abby Pettee, Deacon; Carlos Mello, Senior Warden; Edmund Hartt, Junior Warden; Bill Freeman, Sarah Groman, Dean Jackson, Jen Johanson, Barbara Kent Lawrence, Elizabeth Moran, Eileen Morelli, Terry Mello, Treasurer; Shirley Fierro, Clerk.

Excused: Brother Donovan Bowley

Prayer led by the Rector.

Acceptance of the minutes of August 17, 2020 virtual (Zoom) Vestry meeting. A motion was made by Edmund Hartt and seconded by Elizabeth Moran to accept the minutes as received. The vote was unanimous in favor of accepting the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that as of August 30th there is a \$30,000 deficit and we will be withdrawing funds from our Endowment account beginning in October. She prepared a preliminary 2020 Projection and anticipates a \$27,500 deficit at the end of the year – this includes the full budgeted withdrawal of \$33,000 from Endowment and does not include the \$26,800 from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). In reviewing the accounts, we see that our pledge income is down, and our Givers of Record are within budget – this is because a few members that do not pledge are continuing to donate. Donation letters will be sent out by mid-October and this may bring our Pledge income up over the next three months. She will continue to monitor the accounts.

Regarding the \$26,500 of PPP funds, we are awaiting word from the Diocese as to whether the loan has been forgiven. If the funds are forgiven, the amount will be reported as a grant from the Diocese. It is currently reported as a liability.

St. Thomas' received a \$10,000 anonymous donation designated for Outreach and/or Building. At the September Finance Committee meeting it was recommended that the donation be split evenly between Outreach and Building. After much discussion, the Vestry decided to allocate the funds as follows: \$5,000 to the Building Fund, \$1,500 to the Rector's Discretionary Fund (used to help those in need throughout the community) and the remaining \$3,500 to the Outreach Fund. All were in favor with one abstention.

New Business

Barbara Kent Lawrence spoke, and she is stepping off the Vestry due to family concerns. The Vestry is thankful for her service and wish her well.

Rectors Report

The Rector shared with the Vestry that she is delighted by how much we have learned and accomplished during this time of Pandemic, how much we are learning, how much people are contributing.

A discussion then ensued regarding the desire for some parishioners to hold services in the Church. The Covid Task Force will meet again to explore what can be done to accommodate our parishioners. The Task Force consists of folks who are knowledgeable in their fields of expertise including biology, medicine, and environmental issues.

The Task Force has discussed at length the desire for some congregants to open the church for prayer. This would take place one time per week with masks and social distancing. At present a volunteer is needed to spearhead this venture and Tidings will advertise this.

Services are continuing once a month at Camp Bishopswood in an outdoor space large enough to accommodate all who wish to attend. The next “Picnic” Eucharist took place again at Camp Bishopswood on October 25, 2020.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maine, under the auspices of Bishop Brown, continues to offer a virtual service once a month as announced in the Tidings - including times and links.

Senior Warden Report

It is important to find solutions to the varied issues arising from the church being closed.

Thus far we as a parish have met *and at times exceeded* the ability to innovate and continue to be able to meet our goals.

St. Thomas’ will need to plan and act for the long-term (six to nine months, or more), while praying for resolution in the near-term. We will need to organize and focus on our goal of growing our resources, by: providing structure and organization to our virtual ministries; effectively communicating with parishioners; leading a successful stewardship campaign; and continue to make progress on out buildings and grounds renovations.

Jr. Warden

The Building and Grounds committee has met twice. Once virtually and once at St. Thomas. Chuck Campbell has been contracted and has seen both the basement and chapel beneath the bell tower. He will be showing the Building and Grounds Committee different drawings to see other types of design. If anyone would like to be on the Building and Grounds committee, please contact Edmund Hartt.

New Business

The Stewardship Campaign needs volunteers. The campaign will consist of four separate videos:

Stewardship.

Ministries.

Why what we are doing is important.

Putting it all together.

Edmond Hartt made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bill Freeman seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Rector closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer, and all adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, October 19 , 2020 at 5:30 pm

Upcoming activities for the congregation:

- Every Sunday: Holy Eucharist Rite 2/sermon/music Open Timing
- October 25: Heritage Sunday- St. Thomas’ Day
- Monday through Thursday Coffee half hour at 9:30 am
- Monday and Friday: Noonday Prayer (w/ Sarah, Lisa, Donovan)
- Wednesday Compline at 8pm, Saturday at 8 pm (with Jacqueline)
- Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am (Donovan)
- Rector’s Class Begins soon
- Food pantry open
- Loaves and Fishes continuing
- Phone tree calling parishioners at risk, without internet
- Pastoral visits with Rector w/communion
- Tidings weekly
- Sunday school in works