

# ST. THOMAS VESTRY MEETING

May 17, 2021

**Present:** The Rev Canon Lisa Fry, Rector; Elizabeth Moran, Senior Warden; Edmund Hartt, Junior Warden; Chuck Campbell, Architect PLLC, guest speaker; Troy Bickham, Brother Donovan Bowley, Bill Freeman, Roy Gilley, Jan Lyle, Dean Jackson; Terry Mello, Treasurer; Shirley Fierro, Clerk.

**Absent:** Kendra Watkins, Jen Johanson, Eileen Morelli

Meeting opened at 5:36 p.m. with Prayer led by the Rector. A motion was made by Edmund Hartt and seconded by Elizabeth Moran to accept the minutes of the Vestry meeting of April 19, 2021. A vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted.

## Rectors Report

**CDC** – New regulations beginning the week of May 24, 2021 regarding Covid precautions. (See Rectors Report.)

**Rector asked for Vestry approval to tell AA** they could use the facilities again beginning May 24. The Vestry concurred. Two areas they will use are the bathrooms and the kitchen and the groups will have to be responsible for cleaning these areas after each meeting.

**The Camden Film Festival** will also be notified of the ability to meet at St. Thomas once again. The Festival must sign for a building use agreement.

## Senior Warden

No Report

## Junior Warden

A multi-option proposal for the Tower renovation project at St. Thomas' was presented by Chuck Campbell, Architect PLLC and Edmund Hartt, chair of Buildings and Grounds. As part of the discussion the Vestry was taken on a "tour" of the outside of the church including the wrapped bell tower to be shown the various rooflines and damage being discussed in the schematics. Then the Vestry moved inside to the Chapel area and the flower guild room where discussion continued about the damage done by the leaks prior to the Bell Tower being wrapped. The Vestry was taken through the five different options to correct the damage, not all of which included rebuilding the Tower, but did all involve keeping at least one bell.

A copy of the Architects proposal and schematics will be attached to these minutes.

It was decided that three out of the five proposals would be presented to the Parish for discussion and ultimate vote. Transparency to all concerned is an absolute necessity as the parish continue to discern which option is best for the Congregation.

## Treasurers Report

### **Treasurer Discussion**

Terry wanted to share her concerns about the risk St. Thomas' is in at this time. Terry explained that there are three main risks that need to be addressed:

1. **Compliance Risk** – currently, St. Thomas' is not in compliance with any regulations from the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Maine or St. Thomas' own agreed upon policies and procedures.
2. **Organization Risk** – if there was a mistake made or fraud committed, it may not be discovered for some time.
3. **Key-Man Risk** – if something were to happen to Terry (and Carlos), St. Thomas' currently would not be able to access any of the accounts – this will be resolved in the next week or so. There is no backup plan for any piece of the financial responsibilities.

Terry also reminded the Vestry that over the past 6 years there has been one partial audit performed (2018 financials). She has been asking for an audit of the books every year that she has been Treasurer. As Treasurer, Terry cannot form an Audit Team.

Lisa reminded the Vestry that it is their responsibility for the financial stewardship of St. Thomas'.

There was a discussion as to what was needed and how much expertise was required. If a volunteer(s) were to be found, training would be provided by Terry or St. Thomas' would be willing to pay for a course. Terry asked the Vestry members to think of people they know that might be interested in helping and to reach out to them.

A discussion regarding the importance of getting assistance with the weekly deposits and what was needed. It was Terry's opinion that the disbursements are as important or more important. Elizabeth offered to find volunteers for the weekly deposits. A Volunteer(s) or a paid Bookkeeper is needed for recording deposits and processing disbursements – this is ongoing. Lisa will be sharing the Bookkeeper posting with Terry shortly.

Terry thanked the Vestry for their help in resolving these issues.

The Meeting Closed in prayer at 7:11 pm.

Upcoming Activities for the Congregation:

- Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021 (Back to mostly normal) speaking in Different Languages.
- Online services of Noonday Prayer.
- Wednesday-Eucharist with Healing resumes 9:30 am.
- AA Meetings begin May 24<sup>th</sup>...
- Next online Sunday Service Video: May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Wedding in Church June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Wednesday and Saturday - Compline at 8 pm.
- EFM Wednesdays (Donovan and Rosalee).
- Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am (with Donovan).
- Rector's Class Sundays on Zoom at 4:00 pm (Lisa).
- Food pantry remains open.
- Loaves and Fishes continuing - take out.
- Pastoral visits with Rector continuing.
- Tidings weekly
- Website – links to all online offerings.
- Vestry Meeting, Monday, June 21, 2021 at 5:30 pm.