

ST. THOMAS VESTRY MEETING

June 21, 2021

Present: The Rev Canon Lisa Fry, Rector; Elizabeth Moran, Senior Warden; Troy Bickham, Brother Donovan Bowley, Bill Freeman, Roy Gilley, Jan Lyle, Dean Jackson, Kendra Watkins, Jen Johanson, Eileen Morelli; Terry Mello, Treasurer; Shirley Fierro, Clerk. Excused: Edmund Hartt, Junior Warden

Meeting opened at 5:39 p.m. with Prayer for the Unity of the Church, (BCP p318), led by the Rector. A motion was made by Elizabeth and seconded by Brother Donovan to accept the minutes of the Vestry meeting of May 17, 2021. A vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

Reports:

Rector:

Bill and Elizabeth are working on a survey of St. Thomas Church members. More about this under New Business.

Almost none of the families have yet returned to Sunday Services – children are not yet vaccinated.

Sr. Warden:

No Report

Jr. Warden:

The Rector reported that the architect had someone come by to give us a “real cost” estimate for the several options we have from Chuck Campbell for the tower project. The estimates should be done within the month.

Treasurers Report: Terry asked if anyone had any questions regarding the May 2021 Finance Report. Currently the funds from the Paycheck Protection Program are covering all salaries. A discussion about Pledges and Givers of Record ensued. It is Terry’s opinion that when reviewing donations, we need to combine the two accounts. Each year, she is noticing that there are fewer pledges and more givers of record. She recommends we do a full review of our financial situation at the end of August.

New Business:

A survey is in the process of being created to take a census of the parish regarding how their faith and relationship to St. Thomas has been impacted by the Corona Virus. The Rector and Vestry are interested in what is missing and what are folks looking for. How can St. Thomas facilitate their journey with Christ both spiritually and as a faith community?

A discussion followed about how this survey will be disseminated: email or snail mail.

A suggestion was made that name tags be worn/available on Sunday mornings.

We do have a few new families. A discussion took place RE: having the coffee hour on the front lawn to give us more exposure to passersby. The Rector asked for volunteers for this endeavor. The vestry will think about it.

In October 2020, St. Thomas’ received Stormy Bok’s bequest in the amount of \$25,000. Vestry accepted the bequest in November 2020; however, it has been held in the Operating Reserve account at CNB. In March 2021, St. Thomas’ received a donation of \$5,000 from a parishioner and it is also held in the Operating Reserve account at CNB. These funds total \$30,000.

Acceptance and designation of \$25,000 from Stormy Bock donation to be moved from the reserve account to the building fund. This was to necessitate a re-designation into a short-term investment fund according to diocesan regulations. Elizabeth moved to accept the \$5,000 and approve that the Finance Committee can include the total \$30,000 as part of their reallocation of funds leaving them as undesignated donations. The motion was seconded by Eileen. A vote was taken and accepted by all.

The Rector distributed a listing of the Ministry Liaisons needed to be filled by Vestry Members. Each vestry member is encouraged to choose which Ministry they would like to report on once per year. They are liaisons ONLY, not members of the committees, and their job will be to talk with the various ministries under their jurisdiction as to what is going on, what they want the Vestry to know, and how the Vestry might assist them.

CLYNK – is a year-round bottle drive to help support the building fund of St. Thomas. The bags to collect the bottles will be purchased and supplied free to those interested in collecting for the drive. Bottle Bags are to be dropped off at CLYNK Centers or Hannaford's. Various ways of doing this program and utilizing the monies were discussed. There were no suggestions as to where the monies should be designated. It was also suggested that we be a part of the Amazon SMILE program since it is free and can also generate money for us. Terry will look into that program and sign us up if it looks feasible.

We are not yet compliant with the Episcopal Church regarding our process with financial issues. Lisa has resumes of independent bookkeepers. A question was asked as to whether this expense was in the budget. Terry indicated that the funds are part of the Administrative Expenses that were originally budgeted for an IT Consultant. She indicated that it should be no more than \$5,000.00 annually. The remaining \$1,000.00 budgeted needs to be kept in reserve for any outside IT work that may be needed. The deposit process is under review in order to make sure St. Thomas' is complying.

Terry mentioned that the Vestry has 7 months to find a Treasurer. Regarding an audit of the 2020 accounts: Phil Groman has agreed to coordinate the 2020 Audit. Terry will reach out to him to provide audit guidelines that are found in the Manual of Business Methods.

Lucy Ebbert has agreed to review 4 months of bank statements.

Terry reminded the Vestry that she cannot provide the scope of the audit or recommend audit committee members.

The Altar Guild is once again assisting with care of the Altar. A few more members are needed.

The 10:00 Service on Sunday is now using EOW (Enriching our Worship) one of the 9 services officially sanctioned by the Episcopal Church. Then we will return to one of the Eucharistic Prayers for rite II. This gives the community the opportunity to worship with all the different resources available in the Episcopal Church, and also gives them the opportunity to see God in different ways. This particular Nicene Creed we are using translates Anthropos more correctly. "God came to earth and became truly human" which is something we have theoretically always said but it just makes it clearer to those who don't see "Man" as a human being.

The Meeting closed in prayer at 7:10 pm.

Upcoming Activities for the Congregation:

- Online services of Noonday Prayer continue.
- Wednesday-Eucharist with Healing resumes 9:30 am.
- AA Meetings resume June 14th...
- Next online Sunday Service video: June 27th
- Next Diocesan video service: July 11th
- Wednesday and Saturday - Compline at 8 pm.
- Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 am (with Brother Donovan).
- Rector's Class Sundays on Zoom at 4:00 pm (Rector).
- 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, July 19th at 5:30 pm.