

# ST. THOMAS VESTRY MEETING

August 16, 2021

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

Meeting opened at 5:38 p.m. with the reading of the Collect for this coming Sunday, Proper 16, by the Rector. A motion was made by Elizabeth and seconded by Eileen to accept the minutes of the Vestry meeting of June 21, 2021. A vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

## Reports:

### **Bishop Thomas J. Brown, Tenth Episcopal Bishop of Maine**

Bishop's Report received via email regarding Covid CDC guidelines, updates, reminders and encouragement.

### **Rector**

Rector's Report received via email prior to the meeting. Rector will have a week of vacation preceding a study week from September 1-7.

### **Sr. Warden:**

We have received forty-five completed surveys. This is an improvement over the last survey the Congregation was requested to complete two years ago. This is a direct positive correlation to the interest in the parish as a whole.

### **Jr. Warden:**

Addressed the light bulb outage in the parish hall by removing the effected bulbs. The replacement bulbs were not available locally therefore he has ordered them and will finish the job when they arrive.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Report was received via email prior to the meeting.

PPP will be completely consumed with this upcoming payroll. Two CD's have been opened at the First National Bank and a third will be opened at Camden National Bank.

### **New Business:**

- A. After speaking with the Rectors of Episcopal Churches in our area, most are meeting outside at this time. The St. Thomas' Covid Task Force, and the Rector are making a strong request for mask wearing. Wearing of masks is causing some folks to grumble. The mask request will be reviewed monthly. Most people are being respectful. Signage will be updated to reflect the strong request for people to be masked.
- B. A sheet reflecting attendance from February 21 – August 1, 2019, versus February 21 – August 1, 2021, was emailed to the vestry. The attendance numbers are strong due to the families participating on Facebook and YouTube. Not included were the attendance numbers for both Education for Ministry and Bible Study. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July attendance in 2021 was well over the same date in 2019. There are parishioners as well as visitors who are accommodated by the Sunday's we stream the service. A benefit of streaming is the ability to spread the Gospel to everyone who is interested.
- C. As the new normal could be the ability to be in church and or streaming, depending upon the epidemic, we need to be flexible. The vestry discussed how online viewers might contribute, and donation buttons online were suggested and will be considered. Question: Could we ask the Diocese for monetary assistance to buy equipment to continue this service on Zoom every Sunday. Answer: We already used our diocesan grant to add Wifi to the church, but there are Building Account funds available.
- D. A \$3400.00 donation was received for Information Technology (IT) expenses. IT is a capital expense. Edmond made a motion to accept the donation and seconded by Donovan. The motion was accepted unanimously by those vestry members present.

- E. The purchase of a new laptop and standing computer desk for the Rectors office was discussed. The current computer from the Rector's office would replace the loaner computer in the Finance Office we are currently using. A request of \$2500.00 was made for the purchase of the laptop and standing computer table. A motion was made by Edmond and seconded by Eileen to expend \$2500.00 on a computer and standing computer table for the Rectors use. This motion was accepted unanimously by all vestry members present.
- F. A Shared Network Drive could bring together all facets of the work accomplished for the good of the church. Each area/position would have their own portion of the drive and only some aspects would actually be shared. Cloud backup, which is what we are currently using, can be compromised. Terry will do more research and bring findings to the Vestry.
- G. The Deposit Team is coming together. Volunteers are working once or twice a month. We have a need for a couple more members to volunteer for this ministry.
- H. A list of everything our rector is doing was emailed to the vestry prior to the meeting. The rector noted that some of the functions being performed by the Rector were functions that should be performed by vestry or parish members, particularly fund-raising and stewardship. (See "What Rector does"... ) More of a team effort is the goal going forward.
- I. The Treasurer is continuing to contemplate hiring either a Data Entry person or Bookkeeper, pondering which would be most suitable to accomplish the tasks needed.

**Old Business:** Tower Renovation: Building and Grounds met with an Engineer and have been given a dollar amount but a more inclusive dollar amount with more realistic numbers is hoped for by next month. Estimates are not concrete: therefore, true estimates are needed prior to the beginning of the project. Edmund will author an article for the Tidings regarding the Tower Project. A donate button for the tower was tabled until more information is garnered.

Capital Campaign Committee: Rector has asked two people to head up the campaign. Still awaiting reply.

A motion was made to close the meeting by Edmond and seconded by Donovan and accepted unanimously by all vestry members present.

The Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 6:54 pm.

**Upcoming Activities for the Congregation:**

- Online services of Noonday Prayer continue.
- Wednesday-Eucharist with Healing - 9:30 am.
- AA Meetings daily, upstairs for large groups on Monday and Friday
- Next online Sunday Service video: August 29th
- Next Diocesan video service: September 12th
- Wednesday and Saturday - Compline at 8 pm.
- Bible Study: Wednesdays at 11:00 am (with Brother Donovan).
- Loaves and Fishes continuing - take out.
- Pastoral visits with Rector continuing.
- Tidings weekly
- Website – links to all online offerings.
- Rector Vacation August 26 – 31, Continuing Education Sept. 1-7 (North Carolina)
- Vestry Meeting, Monday, September 20th at 5:30 pm.