

St. Thomas' Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Present: The Reverend Canon Lisa Fry, Rector; Elizabeth Moran, Sr. Warden; Edmund Hartt, Jr. Warden; Troy Bickham; Brother Donovan Bowley; Bill Freeman; Jan Lyle; Eileen Morelli; Kendra Watkins; Terry Mello, Treasurer; Carlos Mello, Guest

Excused: Shirley Fierro, Vestry Clerk; Dean Jackson

Meeting opened at 5:30 with a prayer led by Rev. Lisa (*Collect for Sunday, November 21*)

Bill Freeman made a motion to accept the October Vestry Minutes; seconded by Elizabeth Moran. Unanimous approval to accept the minutes by those present (9).

Rector's Report

Rector's report was presented as read. Rev. Lisa let the Vestry know that Hettie Bickham has asked to write the Christmas Pageant with Lola Black. The kids are all excited. Further details to come.

Jr. Warden

Edmund Hartt reported that he has reached out to someone to repair stucco. Hopefully this will be taken care of in the spring. Edmund thanked Bill for painting/replacing the signs. Edmund also attempted to fix the gutter at the corner of the Wood Street vestibule and the hall into the church.

Treasurer

There were no questions regarding the October financial reports. Terry Mello feels that given everything we are going through, St. Thomas' is in good shape.

Terry announced that she is resigning as Treasurer effective December 31, 2021. She assured the Vestry that she will handle all 2021 final transactions and reports. So that there is a smooth transition for the incoming Treasurer, Terry will not be involved in any ongoing financial matters after her resignation date. Edmund made a motion to accept Terry Mello's resignation as Treasurer and Donovan seconded the motion. All present (9) voted to accept her resignation. Vestry expressed their appreciation for her service to St. Thomas'.

New Business:

- Our next meeting is scheduled for December 20th; it will be held on December 13th.
- Jen Johanson has resigned from the Vestry effective immediately. We will have five open vestry seats for 2022.

Officer and Committee Appointments:

Lisa announced that Jim Ebbert has agreed to be Treasurer. Edmund made a motion to accept Jim Ebbert as Treasurer effective January 1, 2022, Elizabeth seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion on Jim's background, etc. A vote was taken and all present (9) approved Jim's appointment effective January 1, 2022.

As Jim will be Treasurer, Lucy Ebbert is stepping down as Finance/Endowment Chair on December 31st. Bill Freeman has agreed to step into that role effective January 1, 2022.

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Old Business:

Parish Hall Floor Update – Edmund made a motion to spend up to \$9,000 to refinish the wood floors in the Parish Hall, hallways and Guild Room. AA has offered to donate \$5,800 to cover the parish hall. Jan seconded the motion. Summary of discussion:

Parish Hall – oil base, 4 coats. Hallway will be the same. Guild Room and other hallway have waterbase finish; it is recommended that they stay with water finishes. Flooring person indicates that it is almost as good as oil. No other estimates have been received. It is anticipated that funding of St. Thomas' portion will come from restricted funds that have been designated for the Guild Room.

A Vote was taken and all present (9) approved the motion.

Stewardship – Terry advised the Vestry that very few people have sent in their pledge cards. She indicated that it is hard to come up with ideas to get parish involved when we are unable/uncomfortable to get together in person. Discussion on how we reach out to our parishioners. Lisa made a suggestion that video of vestry members be put together. She offered to do the filming and asked that Stewardship Committee/Vestry Members reach out to her if they are interested in participating/assisting. Terry indicated that she currently does not have the time to be involved with this project.

Bookkeeping – There was a discussion on potential bookkeeper – we believe that St. Thomas' will contract with a bookkeeping firm rather than an independent bookkeeper. Our new Treasurer will be the deciding person on what will work best for St. Thomas'.

Tower:

Lisa felt that it was important to share her thoughts. She wants to be able to ensure that St. Thomas' continues and be the most fiscally responsible decision for generations going forward. Lisa prefers Option 3 – not only because of cheaper cost but less maintenance going forward for future parishioners.

Discussion –

The Building & Grounds Committee recommends Option 3. Vestry should decide what option they want to recommend – it is their responsibility to let congregation know their recommendation and why. The Congregation needs to have enough information to own their decision.

B&G did not discuss new roof. Will need to have this decision before construction...roof and tower rebuild (Option 1, 2, or 3) need to be done together. We need to raise all the money at once – we cannot continue to be in Capital Campaign mode.

Troy Bickham asked for someone in favor of Option 1 to explain their reasoning so the Vestry for all our benefit, since most supported Option 3. Elizabeth shared that she is in favor of Option 2 (rebuild tower with modern materials). She feels that the tower is an integral part of St. Thomas' and that it is important to keep our history. She does not want to lose the bells or the view of the Church people see as they walk along Chestnut Street. Terry asked if anyone knew if we had a picture of the Church before the tower was built. No one knows of one...Terry indicated that she will try to look in the Archives Room.

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There was a discussion of the bells and how many would be saved with Option 3 – no more than 2 will be saved. There was further discussion of the bells – history, how they work, etc.

Edmund Hartt made a motion to recommend Option 3 to the congregation and Jan Lyle seconded it. Eight yes votes, one no vote. The motion passed.

Our next question is: What will you present to congregation...

Elizabeth made a motion that presenter(s) provide congregation materials on all three options. They should give the congregation information on the pros and cons of each option. The presenters will then give community the vestry's recommendation and why they arrived at that decision. Bill seconded the motion. Approval by all present (9).

Building and Grounds needs to meet about the roof before the December Vestry meeting.

It was recommended that the presentation be done in January. Carlos Mello made a suggestion that this presentation be incorporated into the Annual Meeting at the end of January. No decision was made.

The Vestry meeting ending with the Lords Prayer at 7:35 pm

Upcoming Events:

- Online services of Noonday Prayer and Compline
- Wednesday Eucharist with Healing
- AA daily, upstairs for big groups Monday/ Friday
- St. Thomas online Sunday service videos: November 28th, December 12th, December 25th
- Diocesan Video: December 26th
- Special Christmas service of Lessons and Carols, December 26th at 9:00am (one service)

Next Vestry Meeting: December 13, 2021 @ 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Mello