

St Thomas Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting via ZOOM

Monday, October 18, 2021

5:36 pm

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

The meeting opened with a prayer, *A Maine Benedicte*, written by The Reverend John W. Rafter and read by Andrew Moran.

A motion was made by Edmund and seconded by Eileen to accept the September 21, 2021; minutes as written. All were in favor, none opposed and no abstentions. The minutes were accepted.

Reports:

Rector: Rector is on Vacation.

Senior Warden: It is preferred this meeting be kept to one hour. Please be succinct as there is much to cover.

Altar Guild is slowly coming back together thanks to Susan Freeman. New linens were purchased and blessed in memory of Karen Laite.

The large processional cross has been taken to Almy for refurbishing. There is an issue because the cross has been soldered sometime in the past. Suggestions were made how to rectify the situation. A local jeweler and also Rockport Steel were mentioned as possible places to have the cross welded. When Bill picks up the cross from Almy he will ask if they would refurbish the cross if it were welded.

Junior Warden: The refinishing of the floor project in the Parish Hall information will be sent to the Building and Grounds Committee for consideration. AA will reimburse for the Parish Hall but there are other areas that are in need of repair as well. Building and Grounds will take this under advisement.

Treasurer: Financially the Parish is doing fine but we will know better next month. We should break even without using the endowment because of the PPP allocation.

Finance Committee: Bookkeeper/Treasurer positions. Someone is interested in the Treasurer's position, but they would like to talk with Lisa. The Committee is discussing a commercial bookkeeping service at a rate of approximately \$55.00 per hour. This is doable as per the current Treasurer as long as the billable hours are kept to under \$10,000.00 per year. The Finance Committee will interview the candidates.

Stewardship Committee: They are working on the 2021/22 Pledge Campaign. Articles of why pledging is important will be included in the Tidings. All “ASK” letters will be mailed out this week with pledge cards and an envelope for mail in. Information will be provided for those desiring to pledge online. One Hundred Thirty personalized letters will be sent via snail mail this week. Thank you to the Committee for their assistance.

2021 Census: We are in desperate need to update our database for the Church; the last time it was updated was probably 2017/2018. Terry is suggesting that we send out a mailing to all households in the directory to request updated information. We will be asking for birth month and day with an option of including the year of birth for each person in the household. We hope to get this out in November with an online option, as well.

Live Streaming: Terry has been in touch with the diocese as well as Christ Church in Eastport. A Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) Camera would cost approx. \$700 - \$1400. A portable Microphone and Mixer would be approximately an additional \$600. We now own a fourteen-inch Laptop with sixteen gigs of RAM to be used to live stream. The system will require a live operator. Christ Church has sent step by step procedures of the process of getting live video connected to the computer for live broadcasting. Live streaming will require someone to work the camera and computer at each service

Poll Results: Results of the recent poll taken to determine who will attend church throughout the winter:

47 Responses

20 Yes;(19 if face masks are required) – 42.5%

17 Unsure – 36.2%

10 No – 21.3%

Thank you, Terry, for all you accomplish for St. Thomas.

Exterior Painting Proposal: The exterior brown painted portion of the church with southern exposure is in need of scraping and painting. The Building and Grounds Committee will take it up at the next meeting. At least two bids will be brought to the Vestry for approval of the amount. Three years ago, a bid was given for the entire church to be repainted for \$60,000. The back parking lot is in the worst condition. Specs to include scraping old paint off, plus 1 coat or 2 was suggested: Bid to be up to and not to exceed \$7500. The thought was to have a description of what we want done including clean up as part of the bid. Edmund made a motion to accept the proposal to have an all-inclusive estimate not to exceed \$7500 for scraping, prime coat and second coat of paint to southern exposure areas of the buildings. Bill seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

Old Business

Junior Warden: As the Vestry received the BELL TOWER REPAIR – OPINION OF PROBABLE COST brochure only one hour prior to the Vestry meeting it was decided to table the discussion of the proposals until such time as everyone had a chance to read and digest the information. This will take place in approximately two weeks. It is the intent of the Vestry to diligently work on choosing the correct option(s?) for a presentation to the parish and the parish to make the final decision. Depending upon when the decision is made and how quickly we move this could be a 20/22 project or a 20/23 project. The design will take approximately 2 months followed by bids and procurement which will take approximately an additional 2 months. Then we must get on a builder's schedule. The Vestry realizes that time is of the essence.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer lead by the Senior Warden. Edmond made a motion to adjourn, and the motion was seconded by Bill. All present were in favor of the meeting adjourning at 6:40 pm.

Upcoming Activities for the Parish

Online Services of Noonday Prayer continue Monday – Friday

Compline Wednesday and Sunday at 8:00 pm

Wednesday Eucharist and Healing – 9:30 am

Wednesday Bible Study 11:00 am on Zoom led by Brother Donovan

AA Meetings daily, upstairs for large groups on Monday and Friday

St. Thomas Online service – October 24

Centering Prayer resumes October 31 at 4:00 pm in the Church

All Saints Day – October 31

Diocesan Video Service – November 14

Loaves and Fishes continuing – take out

Pastoral visits with Rector continuing

Tidings published weekly

Website linked to all online offerings

Next scheduled Vestry Meeting: Monday, November 15, 2021, at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shirley F. Fierro

Clerk