

## St Thomas Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting via ZOOM

Monday, December 13, 2021

6:00 pm

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

The meeting opened with a prayer at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Edmund and seconded by Eileen to accept November 16, 2021, minutes as amended. All were in favor, none opposed and no abstentions. The minutes were accepted.

### Reports:

**Rector:** Bishop Brown has advised the parish to have a social time with masking: and until further notice coffee and snacks will not be available, which requires unmasking. We will continue to be masked within the indoor spaces of the church, offices, hall and classrooms.

**Senior Warden:** The focus right now is on the Altar Guild recruitment. The Altar Guild is encouraged to send an article for the Tidings to Terry inviting people to volunteer. After the holidays, the silver will be inventoried and the insurance policy for such will be reviewed.

There are now volunteers in the Parish office four days a week including Friday mornings.

**Junior Warden:** The estimates on the faux slate pricing for the roof came in. We had already received the estimates for Asphalt, slate and standing seam metal. The building and grounds committee recommended the asphalt option. Elizabeth made a motion to accept the asphalt roofing shingles to replace the current slate shingles and Edmund seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

**Treasurer:** Financially the Parish is doing fine, and nothing has been taken out of the endowment funds this year.

The budget has not been developed for next year. The preliminary budget should be ready in January and will be sent out at that time.

**New Business:** The Rector will be working from home from Christmas until Jan 1. The bulletins are almost completed for Christmas.

The Rector is seeking people to serve on the Vestry and hopes to have a Vestry retreat to facilitate some team building. If you would like to ask someone to be on the Vestry, please allow the church office to vet them first before asking the person. To be a Vestry member you must be baptized and either confirmed or received, a member in good standing, and a giver of record. It was suggested that perhaps someone would like to be baptized and confirmed in order to fulfill this requirement.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on January 30, 2022. The Tower proposal and recommendations may be made at that time. Edmund has been asked to create an overview and to give it to Terry. Bill suggested the presentation include what the Vestry sifted through, the pros and cons of cost etc. and also include what was involved in the decision-making process.

A discussion followed: how do we reach the summer people and those who are staying away right now due to Covid. One thought: Live stream the Annual Meeting and send out a synopsis of material ahead of time. This will be taken under consideration. Another thought was to pare back the annual meeting in order to do the building

renovation presentation. It was mentioned that we need more people on Vestry to volunteer in order to answer all the questions posed.

The question of security of voting if the meeting is streamed was discussed and will be studied—again—a vestry person volunteering to help with this would help all the work from falling on a couple of individuals. Another option: we have the Annual Meeting with budget information, then at a later date have a presentation of the building renovation. Lisa encouraged those present to send her an email with their thoughts.

The Parish Survey was not completed on schedule due to Lisa's vacation and preparations for Advent and Christmas. She and Troy will try to have it completed by early January. If any vestry members would like to assist with this, they are most welcome

There will be two services Christmas Eve and immediately following the 4:30 service the youth of the parish will perform their adaptation of the Christmas Story in the Parish Hall.

Christmas Day Service will be videoed. The Sunday after Christmas will be Lessons and Carols and the reserve Sacrament will be available for anyone wishing to receive Communion.

**Old Business:** Updating the church database is in progress. The form is complete. Everyone will be receiving a letter asking for any data that may need to be included, changed, or deleted. Also, anyone desiring to have their information left out of the directory will be accommodated. Updating the data base could easily help update the Directory yearly. Database will hopefully happen in January, and the directories will follow. Again, vestry members willing to assist would be welcomed.

The next Vestry meeting will be on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 due to the national holiday on Monday the 17. It will be in the Parish Hall unless weather doesn't permit.

**Upcoming Activities for the Congregation:**

- Online services for Noonday Prayer and Compline
- Wednesday, Eucharist with Healing
- AA daily (Parish Hall on Monday and Friday)
- Centering Prayer in the Lady Chapel on Sunday evenings at 4:00 pm
- Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 and 7:30 pm.
- Christmas Eve following the 4:30 Service the Christmas Pageant, written and performed by the Youth of the Parish.

The Vestry Meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer, led by the Rector.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shirley F. Fierro

Clerk