

**t Thomas Episcopal Church Vestry (Hybrid) Meeting**  
**Monday, March 21, 2022**

**Present:** The Rev Canon Lisa Fry, Rector; The Rev Dr. Rosalee Glass, Deacon; Elizabeth Moran, Senior Warden; Edmund Hartt, Junior Warden; Sarah Groman, Dean Jackson, Kendra Watkins, Troy Bickham, Jan Lyle, Eileen Morelli, Shirley Fierro, Clerk. Absent: Jim Ebbert, Treasurer.

The meeting opened with prayer led by the Rector at 6:34 p.m.

A motion was made by Edmund and seconded by Sarah to accept the February 22, 2022, minutes. All were in favor except Elizabeth who abstained due to not hearing well via Zoom.

A motion was made to amend the January 22, 2022, minutes to read: "End of year shows a surplus of \$12,685 for 2021. The PPP loan was forgiven as per the diocese. (The rest of the page is deleted-was from Financials, not oral report.) Also, to be amended the next sentence to read: "The parish received a \$50,000 gift for the tower fund.) A motion was made by Edmund and seconded by Dean to accept the amended corrections of the January 22, 2022, minutes. All were in favor except Sarah who abstained since she wasn't on Vestry at the time.

**Reports:**

**Rector:** Rector's report stands as read with the following addition: Rector discussed the Safe Church program. It is being re-introduced to all Dioceses nationwide. There are approximately 8 modules in the reworked Safe Church program. Parishes diocese wide are mulling ways to be compliant due to extended regulations. She will come back next month with a solution.

**Senior Warden:** No Report.

**Junior Warden:** Submitted a written report, taken as read.

**Treasurers Report:** A Pledge and Giver of Record receipts report as of February 28, 2022, was received from the Treasurer. Also received was a letter from the Treasurer explaining how he envisions proceeding as Treasurer. A discussion ensued regarding the Canonical Rule requiring full financial report to be generated for every regular vestry meeting. The Rector will speak with CFO, Terry Reimer, of the diocese as to how to proceed.

**New Business:**

A discussion ensued regarding the \$12,685 surplus from last year's budget due to the PPP received from the diocese. Edmund made a motion that we carry the surplus forward to the 2022 budget and it was seconded by Troy. All were in favor.

As a bit of local history, The Reverend Gilbert Foxwell was a former rector of St. Thomas. He served during the last pandemic of 1918. He cared for the sick and he died from the virus. The parish last month received a \$25,000 donation from the estate of Joan Foxwell, daughter in law of our late rector the Rev Gilbert Foxwell. Vestry designates half of the donation to go into the building fund and half into the endowment, with the suggestion made that we review how we usually designate and in what percentage, large cash donations. Edmund made a motion to accept the gift from the Joan Foxwell estate with those designations. The motion was seconded by Jan. All were in favor.

Edmund suggested that the Vestry soon take a walk-about the building and note what needs to be done structurally and then the projects be prioritized. Also, briefly discussed were the stained-glass windows which are in need of repair. Edmund will have professionals assess the windows and provide a proper estimate to Building and Grounds committee.

**Old Business**

The Vestry Retreat will not be held in late March. April or May are now proposed. The rector is still looking for a venue.

Tower project was discussed. Edmund has done research and found documentation in the files from 1945 – 1948 confirming structural issues less than 10 years after the structure was built—many of the same issues we have at present. These letters were distributed to the Vestry. Discussed other churches towers, how they differ from ours.

The Building and Grounds Committee met with Nancy Barba, an architect who specializes in historic renovations. She was sent all the reports we have generated. When asked, she agreed that we had asked all the right questions and that choosing to reduce the tower and put a roof over it was a viable choice. She also agreed that rebuilding the tower properly would cost much more than putting a pitched roof over the chapel.

It was noted that the decision about what to do regarding the tower by Canon law is a vestry matter. We opened it up to the congregation to let them know what the process was and to recommend the tower crenelated top be replaced with a pitched roof to correct all the structural flaws in the original design. This would be the most cost-effective choice for the parishioners of the future, as well as an attractive choice.

Lisa closed the meeting with all reciting the Lord's Prayer.

A motion was made by Edmund and seconded by Dean to close the meeting at 7:23 pm. All were in favor.

**Upcoming Activities for the Congregation:**

- Online services of Noonday Prayer and Compline
- Wednesday, Eucharist with Healing
- Bible Study Wednesdays at 11:00 am via Zoom
- AA meetings daily (Parish Hall on Monday and Friday)
- Centering Prayer in the Lady Chapel on Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm

The next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2022, at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shirley Fierro, Clerk