

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting – Conference Room
Monday, October 17, 2022**

Present: The Reverend Canon Lisa Fry, Rector; Elizabeth Moran, Senior Warden; Edmund Hartt, Junior Warden; Sarah Groman, Dean Jackson, Eileen Morelli, Benji Lowry. Shirley Fierro, Clerk.
Excused: Jan Lyle, Kendra Watkins.

The meeting opened in prayer led by the Rector.

Interim Treasurers Report: Received as a handout and also sent via email requesting vestry ask questions as needed.

Junior Wardens Report: Stove in the kitchen was serviced by PG Willey. A pressure regulator is needed – cost \$500.00. It was decided to wait for a kitchen committee consisting of Lisa, Benji, and Edmund, to assess the needs of the stove for the parish before a decision is to be made.

Senior Wardens Report: Water Hog mat has been ordered for Wood Street entrance. Newer all-inclusive hymnals are needed and more prayer books. Suggestion: donations for hymnals and prayer books. Rector asked that they table this until next year.

Rectors Report: As read

New Business:

Bishop Browns visitation is on Sunday, November 13, 2022 for both services. A meeting in the Guild Room for the Vestry may be on Friday, November 12, 2022, 4- 5:00 pm, pending acceptance of schedule discussion with the diocese.

The next Vestry Meeting will be on November 14th at 6:30pm in the conference room. 2023 Budget is the topic.

Vestry Nominations: We need 4 more candidates, and a Jr. Warden. Vestry recommendations welcomed, all candidates shared with the Rector who will check with Terry to determine eligibility.

Vestry members recommended posters for Parish Hall with pictures of new members. It was suggested that the new newcomer committee assist with this. Rector concurred.

Stewardship: Rector will preach on stewardship in November or December. Vestry asked to think of 3 or 4 people willing to speak on why it is important to support the church- get suggestions to rector ASAP.

Hymns: Suggestion box in the Parish Hall for parishioners to suggest favorite hymns.

Office Mail: Decision to have mail delivered directly to the office approved by all. Details to be worked out. Rector will talk with the Post Office on regulations and how that can be accomplished. For now, there is a volunteer picking up the mail from Rockland P.O.

Telephone: A charge of \$4.95 is being charged back to the parish for all directory assisted calls. Currently we have two landlines, one of which vestry requests be cancelled. One must be kept for the alarm system.

Retreat conversation on how to make our physical plant work for us: Suggestion to rent out portions of the building: share space with another congregation, renting out kitchen may involve being licensed as a Commercial Kitchen. Kitchen committee will discuss when they meet.

Property Taxes: Our tax bill on the apartment was raised significantly this year. We will discuss this and other financial issues next month when vestry discusses budget.

Old Business:

Fairs: Kate Jackson has proposed no fair this year, but early planning for a Summer Fair and Christmas Fair next year, and she will begin plans for meetings.

Deposits: A teams of two people on a rotating schedule are needed to count deposits and learn the system including use of the check scanner. This duty would include dropping cash off at the bank once counting and recording are completed. Vestry will be doing this on a rotating basis beginning immediately. Rector will draw up a schedule, people may choose whether they will count money on Tuesday and Wednesday with a volunteer, or Sunday after church with people they will assist the Rector in finding.

Sabbatical: Rector's sabbatical will be taken next year. Date possibilities include September through October 2023, or May through August 2023, but are as yet undetermined. Supply Priests cost could be in excess of \$6,000, if we keep to current schedule. Possible new resolution being brought to a vote in convention: If more than 8 weeks of supply is reached at a parish, they must make pension fund payments if applicable.

Suggestions for sabbatical services from rector: one combined service Sunday's at 9:00 am for the 4 months she's away. Possibly alternating months with Rite I & II. Perhaps Morning Prayer on 4th Sundays. Vestry amenable to all suggestions.

Meeting closed at 8:02 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shirley F. Fierro