

## St. Thomas Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting

Monday, January 18, 2023

**Present:** The Reverend Canon Lisa Fry, Rector; Elizabeth Moran, Senior Warden; Edmund Hartt, Junior Warden; Sarah Groman, Eileen Morelli, Benji Lowery, Dean Jackson, Kendra Watkins. Terry Mello, Interim Treasurer

The meeting opened with prayer led by Lisa at 7:35 pm.

- Approval of the minutes moved by Edmund, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elizabeth. Unanimous approval.
- No Rector, Sr. Warden or Junior Warden report.
- Treasurer report as attached, questions raised and answered by Terry. Finished 2022 with no deficit and no overage.
- Budget for 2023 discussed at length. Edmund made a motion, Elizabeth seconded to add 3,000 to fundraising line item as expected income for 2023. Motion passed unanimously.
- Edmund made motion to pass proposed balanced budget for 2023, Kendra 2<sup>nd</sup>ed. Passed unanimously. Vestry applauded Treasurer's fine work.
- Vestry nominations: 3 on slate for Vestry, one for Jr. Warden. Need one more. Discussed options. No decision.
- Update on stove. Discussed induction cooktop, after NYC decision to ban gas stoves commercially within a few years. Referred back to stove committee for further discussion.
- Sabbatical services shape and form had a lively discussion. Motion made by Edmund, seconded by Sarah to have 1 service which would begin at 9am Sundays during rector's sabbatical, with alternating months using Rite 1 and Rite 2. Unanimous approval.
- Treasurer put forth a new money counting method. Vestry members will continue to take turns doing the paperwork for the deposit, both cash and checks, Treasurer will do final check input with bank machine.
- Lively discussion re: Audit. Terry stressed her frustration regarding her annual requests for an audit since 2016. There has only been one partial audit of the 2018 books that took place in 2019. Treasurer is not comfortable with her liability, as well as the liability to St. Thomas', if vestry does not do their due diligence by conducting required Audit. Rector reminded vestry that we are required by diocesan policy to do an ANNUAL audit. 4 people will be involved in the audit: Bob Bannon, Benji Lowry, Sarah Groman (as needed), and rector will ask the Egelston's if one of them would also be involved. February start for audit if possible. Terry has given the Vestry notice that if an Audit

Committee is not in place and with a plan by end of February, her resignation as Interim Treasurer will be March 31, 2023.

- After being appointed by the rector, Anne Rogers-Popejoy will be ratified by vestry as Clerk for a one year appointment at the February meeting, following Shirley Fierro's decision to end her time as Clerk.
- We will be supporting the school in Haiti along with Christ Church in Gardiner by giving approx. \$2,900 from the interest we received in 2022 from the Victor Edman Diocesan-held account, while also sending our support (\$1,800) to El Hogar for the child we are supporting there.
- Rector distributed final 2022 attendance numbers. All discussed. Attached.

Ended meeting with prayer for the departing Vestry members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Next Vestry meeting will be Monday February 20, 2023 at 6:30pm in the conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Substitute Clerk (rector)