

St. Thomas Vestry Meeting
February 20, 2023
6:30 pm Zoom.

Present: Rev. Canon Lisa Fry, Elizabeth Moran: Senior Warden, Br. Donovan Bowley: Junior Warden, Terry Mello: Interim Treasurer, Jacqueline Recht, Sarah Groman, Kendra Watkins, Gwen Prosser, Jan Lyle, Anne Rogers-Popejoy (clerk).

Motion to approve minutes of last minutes: Prosser, second Moran. Motion carries.

Rector's Report: Given as read.

Senior Warden's Report: Welcomes new vestry members, looks forward to working closely with all over the summer in particular. Ordered 15 new Prayer Books.

Junior Warden's Report: none, new warden in place.

Treasurer's Report:

- January as expected;
- Funds sent to Christ Church to support work in Haiti.
- **Bowley motions to hold funds designated to El Hogar until the outreach committee can determine where funds will go, Second Moran. Motion carries.**
- Received \$2000 for the Diocesan onboarding grant to increase digital presence in the community; money placed in the building fund. Mello suggests that funds are used to purchase a hybrid meeting system for the conference room. Will bring more information to the March meeting.
- Audit committee: 4 parishioners willing to serve; Mello will meet with the group on March 3 to prepare for the audit, which is internal, not Diocesan supervised.

New Business

- Welcome new vestry members
- Cover norms: suggested rules for getting along as a Vestry
 - No sidebar conversations; no parking lot conversations; be respectful in all conversations; listen attentively; have open conversations about what is possible; end on time; do not need to read reports aloud if they have been sent out prior to the meeting; do not feel that you need to comment on everything that comes up; please provide agenda items to the Rector one week in advance; minutes are sent to the vestry as soon as possible: one week period to amend, then changes made in advance of next meeting.
- One candidate interviewed for the admin position: well qualified, but not able to start until May; will interview two more candidates in the meantime.
- **Ratification of new clerk: Motion, Moran; Second, Prosser. Motion carries.**
- Parochial report: Treasurer's portion completed; Rector's in progress.

- Of note: Average Weekly in person attendance is 67 (increasing); Online weekly attendance average is 124 (mostly from weekly streamed services)
- Rector solicited input from the Vestry to answer three questions on the report.
- **Prosser moves to accept Parochial Report, second Bowley. Motion carries.**

Old Business:

- Construction Bid:
 - Maine Highlands Construction for \$957,757. Start date projected for September 1, 2023. Carlos Mello discussed details of the bid, including approximately \$100,000 outside of the scope of the original project. References have been checked. Edmund Hartt is in discussion with another contractor as well. Project approximately 30% higher due to larger scope and rising cost of materials.
 - **Bowley motions to enter into a contract with Maine Highlands Construction for the sum of \$957,757, second Lyle. Discussion follows:**
 - Including the importance of the timing, the availability of contractors, and the total cost – including whether the church can commit to the project before funds are raised. Possibilities raised include borrowing against the endowment or building and then continuing to fundraise to pay those off. Mello notes that there is currently \$270,000 available to utilize, in addition to \$80,000 in bequests.
 - The roof of the church needs to be replaced, this is part of the construction; it is nearly 100 years old and the slate is compromised.
 - **Motion carries with one negative vote.**
- **Bowley motions to hire a professional fundraiser for the chapel construction project, second Watkins. Discussion. Motion carries.**
- No update on the stove project for the kitchen: discussion tabled until March meeting.
- Sabbatical update:
 - Have found a supply priest: The Rev. Paul Briggs (spouse of The Rev. Barbara Briggs in Belfast); retired priest, available for two services each Sunday and can support pastoral issues for 3 hour blocks of time for an additional \$80 per visit; can also officiate at funerals and weddings.
 - Still need to fill in four non-consecutive weeks.
 - A contract/ LOA will need to be signed between Briggs and the vestry.

Rev. Canon Lisa Fry closes the meeting with a blessing at 7:50pm.

Submitted: Anne Rogers-Popejoy, Clerk.