

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

Present: Rev. Canon Lisa Fry, rector; Elizabeth Moran, senior warden; Br. Donovan Bowley, junior warden; Terry Mello, interim treasurer; Anne Rogers-Popejoy, clerk; Sarah Groman; Benjy Lowry; Jan Lyle; Gwen Prosser; Jacqueline Recht; Kendra Watkins.

Rector opens the meeting in prayer. Terry Mello reads Paul's letter to the Romans 8:6-11. Discussion follows.

**Motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting as amended: Gwen Prosser.
Second: Sarah Groman. Motion carries.**

Reports:

Senior warden has ordered the new prayer books and book plates. Will bless the prayer books on Palm Sunday at both services.

Junior warden submits report as presented.

Interim Treasurer notes that there was a timing issue on the parking lot rent, arrived March 1, which is why it does not appear in the February report. Requested to transfer \$10,000 from endowment to cover expenses. Investments are down, as is the market. Discussion followed. Treasurer notes that we will have a better picture of trends in March or April; it is still quite early in the year.

New Business:

Fundraising for construction: Rector reports that the committee does not yet have a chair; but several people have asked to sit on the committee. The committee will hire a fundraising consultant for the construction project.

Sabbatical: Rev. Paul Briggs attended to meet the Vestry. Rev. Marcia Hecker of Rockland will pick up the weeks that Fr. Paul is not here. During sabbatical, the Vestry may request that he attend a meeting, at an additional cost. He is also available for pastoral care, which will be led by Br. Donovan.

Protecting our Houses of Worship: Sarah, Jacqueline and Jan attended the workshop. Rector completed the self assessment, which did not yield positive results. Sarah reports that it was an intensive workshop: the main focus was on how to protect houses of worship in general, not just active shooters. The presenters will be a resource going forward. We should invite rapid responders to visit and tour the building, and we need to familiarize ourselves with our own buildings. We need an emergency response plan in general. Sarah will share the documents

and links from the workshop with the vestry via email. Discussion followed. **Senior Warden motions that the building and grounds committee form a sub committee to create a building security plan. Second Junior Warden. Motion carries.**

Parish Wide Meeting:

-There is some concern in the parish that the Rector will not return from sabbatical. This is not the case. The meeting will cover the future of the parish and how things like ¾ time and morning prayer come into play. The Bishop is encouraging churches to partner with organizations in the community to utilize the physical church and to think as a community about what things are possible in the future.

-The meeting will also cover the construction project, and ask the parish to come together behind the project. Additional details discussed. Treasurer shared list of secured, potential, and restricted funds for the project.

-Junior Warden notes that decreased attendance and participation is an issue in the greater Episcopal Church. Senior Warden notes that the history of the church is very much intertwined with the community. The senior warden would like the vestry or the rector to assure the congregation that ¾ time has not been fully explored.

Old Business:

-No update on the stove: it needs to be removed. Rector requests that the vestry think up 3 ways to get rid of the current stove by next meeting.

-Admin position: Rector had an additional applicant who we are not able to hire. Position has been posted again. Diane has offered to come in for a few additional hours at her convenience during Rector's sabbatical if the position is not filled. Rector is confident that the office is in good hands with the volunteers.

Rector closes meeting with Lord's Prayer at 8:00 pm.