

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
June 19, 2023
6:30 pm

Present: Elizabeth Moran, senior warden; Br. Donovan Bowley, junior warden; Terry Mello, treasurer; Anne Rogers-Popejoy, clerk; Sarah Groman, Gwen Prosser, Jacqueline Recht, Kendra Watkins
Guests: Coralie Murray and Kate Jackson, summer fair committee
Absent: Jan Lyle

Senior Warden calls the meeting to order with a prayer for Juneteenth.

Junior Warden moves to accept the minutes of the last meeting as presented; second Jacqueline. Motion carries.

Senior Warden's Report: state of the sabbatical: Still afloat; Fr. Paul Briggs is doing a wonderful job and is well received. The vestry is tasked with choosing the color of the shingles for the new roof – please direct questions to the Junior Warden and/or Edmund Hartt.

Junior Warden's Report: Gardens and grounds need attention: Sarah will prepare an article for Tidings asking for volunteers. Junior Warden will also query Kelsey's about two replacement stoves and removal of the old stove.

Treasurer's Report: As requested, Terry compiled a historical look at donations going back to 2015. She will email this out for further discussion at the July meeting. The trend is a steady drop from \$112,407 in 2015 to \$50,687 this year to date. Essentially, there are 10 families that have either left the parish and stopped giving, or stayed and stopped giving, totalling approximately \$50,000. The Treasurer will ask the finance committee to go through this data and tables discussion until the next meeting.

Summer Fair update from Coralie and Kate - Coralie shares that the main purpose of the fair is to bring the parish together behind a project and to build positive relationships in the process. The second is to welcome the community, and the third to make money for the church. Happy to have the support of the Vestry. Kate will make sure that the notes from the meeting are shared with the Vestry. Donation list is nearly complete, and the committee does not anticipate asking the parish for any money. There will be an online auction portion.

ByLaws Update:

Tina Pickering, at the Diocese of Maine, has provided the following information:

- The Bylaws Committee should be a subcommittee of the Vestry.
- The Vestry shares with the committee what they would like to change/add to the bylaws.
- Throughout the process, the committee shares the revisions with Vestry.

- Once the wording is agreed to by the Bylaws Committee, it is sent to the Chancellor of the Diocese for review. (Tina indicated that if it was sent to her, she would get it to the Chancellor.)
- After the review by the Chancellor, the Vestry votes to bring the amended bylaws to the congregation for ratification.
- Once ratified, they are sent to the Standing Committee of the Diocese for final review.

The Senior Warden will start this process over again, starting with the formation of a committee, once the rector returns from sabbatical.

New Business:

The Senior Warden is looking for help reviewing applications for the Richard I Thomas scholarships.

Senior Warden moves to increase the scholarship amount from \$2500 to \$3000, Junior Warden seconds. Motion carries.

Senior Warden shares that she held a positive subcommittee meeting to discuss staff and volunteer roles and positions. Terry will put an article in Tidings to begin to see if we can find someone in the parish to take on communications. If we do not find someone in a few weeks; we will determine if we need a 10 or 20 hr per week person. At large, we will see what ministries might fill pieces of this role to try to keep the admin position at 10 hrs per week: it would be a financial stretch to go to 20.

Ministries/committees identified are as follows: Christian Formation; Communications; Building and Grounds; Finance; Outreach; Pastoral Care; Worship; Hospitality; Stewardship.

The church needs a technology and records retention policy, Senior Warden will follow up with the Diocese to see if there are examples to include in our new bylaws.

Senior Warden requests that we order the Owl for zoom communication and proposes a hybrid meeting for July.

Meeting adjourns at 8:20 pm with the Lord's Prayer.