



Vestry Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2021

Attendance

Present: Rev. Johan Johnson, Pia Delville, – Sr. Warden, James Hairston, Chuck Gregory, Giselle Dorsett, Harry Richardson, Lillie Griffin, Ryan Brukaradt, Yuly Van Brakel, and Tom Clark

Guests: Canon Debra Maconaughey, Jodi Gonzalez, Dr. Spencer Taintor – Head of School, and Cyndee Zeck

Absent: Betty Robinson

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm was opened with a brief prayer service in honor of the Presidential inauguration that occurred earlier that day.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Chuck Gregory moved to approve the previous minutes (December 16), **Harry Richardson** seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

PARISH FINANCIALS

Cyndee Zeck showed FY'19-20 (-50K) and projected FY'20-21 (-87K) – there was a decline in revenues but also a reduction in expenses. She reported there is an upcoming meeting that we are preparing for with the Diocese where we will be seeking a reduction of our current assessment (7,175.00 per month). We will be asking that the assessment be suspended from February through June and in the coming year (beginning July 2021) that we pay 2.3K per month. **Ryan Brukaradt** suggested that whatever we submit to the Diocese should also be distributed with the entire Vestry, **Fr. Johan** agreed.

ANNUAL MEETING

Chuck Gregory stated that there would be a live portion of the Annual Meeting and was suggesting as many members of the vestry that feel comfortable should be present together in the parish hall. He then discussed how the voting would work. **Yuly Van Brakel** suggested that it might be easier to have a landing page that people can get into and then vote. **Chuck Gregory** thought that may be a good idea and that he would talk to Kelly Harris about it. **Pia Delville** emphasized that the written reports were all in the program and it was not necessary for people to physically read their reports since they were there in writing. Stewardship was the next topic discussed and **Canon Debra** emphasized that we should be working on putting together Stewardship Committee with a Chair and Co-Chair. She let us know “there tons of resources” available to help us, but that we needed people who don't mind talking about money and that could speak to what St. Mark's means to them and the life of their family. **Fr. Johan** asked whether the members or Chair had to be vestry members and it was stated the only requirement was that the Chair/Co-Chair had to be making a financial commitment to the parish. **Chuck Gregory** said he final point was: HELP WANTED! He was interested in making sure we communicate that we want as many people to be involved in our existing ministries or in new ones. He highlighted the CALENDAR and FITNESS & FELLOWSHIP initiatives that were proposed by congregants and then those people followed up and made sure they were successful. **Canon Debra** furthered that point by encouraging us to have short success stories (and pictures) that emphasize what St. Mark's ministries are accomplishing. **Chuck Gregory** proposed the following amendment: For the foreseeable future electronic voting will be used in conjunction with interactive livestream meetings in order to conduct the business of the church. **Yuly Van Brakel** seconded the motion – it passed unanimously.

Yuly Van Brakel and **Pia Delvaille** then went over the slate of candidates: Tracy Beeson, Lynne Coughlin, Lori McFadden, Mike Mullins, and Robin Dreyfuss – there was some discussion about pledging and what that means in relationship to vestry members – but everyone felt comfortable with the proposed slate the nominating committee put forward. **Fr. Johan** stated that he had been in touch with Debbie Ferguson, President of the ECW, who expressed interest in serving on the Vestry and that he was scheduled to meet with her. He would get back to everyone if that conversation about her serving on the Vestry went further. **Jim Hairston** made the point that each of the new Vestry members needed to have a specified term in office (3, 2, 1 years) so that when a new Rector came she/he would not have the potential of having an entirely new Vestry. **Fr. Johan** agreed and said that terms would be determined prior to the Annual Meeting and that he would send them out for the Vestry approval.

MUTUAL MINISTRY REVIEW

Canon Debra recognized and complimented the hard work that had been done by the Vestry over the last 5 months. She asked that we have all the 2021 Vestry meetings set up prior to the Annual Meeting. There should be a Vestry Orientation date certain soon after the Annual Meeting, along with a potential Vestry Retreat date that may be in person or some sort of hybrid dependent on the availability of the vaccine. She emphasized the need to identify a Stewardship Chair and/or Co-Chairs and encouraged us to continue to brainstorm on finding additional streams of income. **Canon Debra** congratulated the Vestry on the demanding work that has been completed and **Fr. Johan** thanked her for her positive leadership and cooperation during this process.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Dr. Taintor explained that in early January there was one 6th grade COVID “exposure” and the entire grade was sent home in compliance with our safety protocols. However, the majority of students have now tested negative and were back in school. The school’s focus is on reenrollment, as well as the feasibility study for the Capital campaign and that he would report back those results in April/May on any outcomes.

INTERIM RECTOR REPORT

Fr. Johan talked about more stringent protocols that had recently been put out by the Diocese of Southeast Florida due to the various COVID variants. To that end we will be doing our 11 a.m. service outside and 8:00 a.m. remains inside (with stricter protocols). **Ryan Brukardt** asked about who the directive came from as he was worried that being outside was yet a further disruption of the church getting back to regular worship. **Canon Debra** informed us that she was part of a Diocesan-wide regathering committee and their consultant provided information about a new COVID strain that could prove to be very problematic. Therefore, the Diocese was making these recommendations out of an abundance of caution to prevent a potential closure in the coming weeks. Discussion ensued and **Ryan Brukardt** asked to see the evidence upon which these Diocesan suggestions are being made. **Fr. Johan** thought the outdoor services would last for at least the next 4 weeks. Lent begins on February 17th and we would be having service at Noon each Wednesday during Lent with various preachers. **ASHES TO GO** would also be offered similar to 2020. **Fr. Johan** informed the Vestry that there has been some discussion about doing joint Lenten services amongst the Broward County churches, and he would keep the leadership informed as to the outcome of those discussions. **Fr. Johan** was pleased to announce that Father Robert Matheus (Retired from Diocese of Ohio) would be volunteering his services and joining the ministry team for the next few months – he is a welcome addition.

Chuck Gregory made a motion to adjourn, and **Pia Delvaille** seconded the motion – with no objections the meeting was closed at 8:05 p.m. with a Closing prayer by **Canon Debra**.