

Good Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes by Zoom

March 23, 2021

“The Church exists to know God, love God, and to serve God.”

Attending: Fr. John Christopher, Interim Rector; Beth Hatcher, Senior Warden; Rob Madden, Junior Warden; Alan Northcott, Treasurer; Barbara Popejoy, Clerk. Members: Karen Dorian, Liz Northcott, Mary Pierce, Mike Powell, Lynn Walsh. Guest: Stephen Hatcher.

Call to Order: 6:00 P.M.

Opening Reading and Prayer - Mike Powell

Possible Consent Agenda – The Consent Agenda is a collection of items that require action by the vestry, but can be dispatched without further discussion, debate or further information. It provides for more efficient meetings.

Approval of February Minutes:

- Motion to approve – Lynn Walsh; second – Karen Dorian
- Motion Carried

Approval of February Financial Statements:

- Motion to approve as presented – Beth Hatcher, second – Mary Pierce
- Motion Carried

Committee and Ministry Reports

Outreach Committee – Karen Dorian

On behalf of Veterans First Organization, Karen is collecting donations of cleaning supplies for female veterans of the Navajo Nation. Donations will be received in Maitland Hall until April 9.

Phone Tree Updates – All

Each member was assigned six contacts within the congregation to conduct well-being checks by phone. The check-ins seem to be well received and folks expressed gratitude for the Vestry reaching out.

Stewardship Ministry - Beth Hatcher

The members of the Ministry continue to discuss strategies to involve the Vestry and members of the congregation in activities and ministries of the church as we emerge as a Body from the pandemic. Various options were suggested and can be found in the

attached report. The Ministry hopes that Vestry members who have a heart for building up the church will join us.

Interim Rector's Report – Fr, John Christopher

- Bishop Jennifer Reddall will make a visitation to Good Shepherd on April 11. She will conduct a Zoom Service and coffee hour with the congregation at 9:00 A.M., followed by an in-person service and meeting with the Vestry. All Vestry Members are encouraged to attend.
- Fr. John has obtained the book "Post Quarantine Church" for Vestry members. They can be picked up at the church. He requests that all members read it.

Senior Warden's Report – Beth Hatcher (see attached report)

- Consent Agenda - The Senior Warden wishes to install the Consent Agenda, which includes regular and recurring items requiring no discussion. Items requiring discussion may be "pulled" from the agenda and be dealt with separately. Committee Reports may be submitted to the Senior Warden the Wednesday prior to the Vestry Meeting to allow for any issues to be resolved before hand. Committee notes will be sent out with the agenda the Friday prior to the Vestry Meeting.
- *Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented:* Beth Hatcher, second – Liz Northcott
- *Motion Carried*

Solar Panels: The diocesan program, "Harvesting the Sun" was introduced. The objective is to bring solar energy systems to all churches in the diocese to the extent possible. Educational support, technical assistance and financing will be offered. Further details are included in the attached Warden's Report.

- *Motion:* to create an exploratory committee to investigate the feasibility of installing solar panels on Good Shepherd's property. Committee will report findings to the congregation. – Beth Hatcher; second – Rob Madden. Rob Madden will chair the committee.
- *Motion Carried*

Safeguarding God's People - This on-line program is required by the diocese for all people in churches' leadership positions. A parish coordinator is needed. Please inquire at the office to sign up to take the course if you have not taken it.

Search Process - Beth has been in communication with the Diocesan Office. A discussion will be held with Canon Anita Braden regarding how/when to begin. Outcomes from the discussion will be shared with the Vestry.

Junior Warden's Report – Rob Madden

Water leak issues were addressed and appear to be resolved. Items on the “to do list” include obtaining quotes for painting the church and replacing the centrally located light in the parking lot.

Performance Report for Good Shepherd of the Hills Investment Portfolio – Stephen Hatcher. (See attached Report)

- Under the church's current Investment Objective, *Aggressive Income*, Stephen explained that the intention is to “preserve the corpus of the Funds, enable more capital appreciation, and generate an income stream that provides cash to finance activities that are consistent with the mission of the church, without touching the principal. By reducing the volatility of risk, money will be available when we need it.

Old Business – Alan Northcott

- The 2021 budget, previously sent to the Vestry was discussed. We will not have a balanced budget under the recent and current conditions of our significantly reduced pledge income.
- PPP funds were discussed. The Diocese manages the process and is proceeding with pursuing funds.
- The Finance Committee met and discussed possible sources of generating funds, including finding savings when and where we can, (re-evaluate current vendors) watch our spending, deploy income from Shepherd's Crossing.
- The procedural issue of Vestry approval of movement of funds was raised.
- *Motion:* to move \$50,000 retroactively from investment funds to operating capital - Lynn Walsh, second – Beth Hatcher.
- *Motion Carried*

New Business

Ezekiel Project - Barbara Popejoy

- The history, the task, investigative process, data collection, and analysis of results was presented.
- The findings included five community needs to be addressed by the mission of the church:
 - Spiritual direction and renewal
 - Family and emotional needs
 - Services for Seniors
 - Organized fun for kids
 - Youth ministry

- The purpose of the review of the Project is to remind the Vestry that there is work to be done when we open wide the doors of our church. We build around what we already know is needed in our community, as well as what the church already declared it has the heart to do.
- If we want to grow the church, give people a reason to join; have enthusiasm for engagement; we know what needs to be done.

Motion: Commit to pursuing the findings of the Ezekiel Project – Beth Hatcher, second – Rob Madden

Discussion: work on a plan to communicate and “market” to the members of the church.

Motion Carried

Red Cross – Liz Northcott

Discussions were held with the Red Cross for how Good Shepherd might be of assistance during the upcoming fire season such as providing a staging area for distribution of water, snacks, etc. Discussion was also held about a blood drive.

- *Motion:* to further explore the possibility of working with Red Cross – Liz Northcott, second – Rob Madden
- *Motion carried*

Upcoming Calendar Events

- “*Vestry Minute*” *update* - A Vestry member will give a short report to the congregation at the Sunday service(s) following a Vestry meeting on the outcomes or action items of the meeting.

Additional Item – Fr. John requested a renewal of our scholarship committee to assist two students with their college tuition. With the Vestry’s consent, he will put together a request for funds along with the possibility of setting up a committee.

Closing Prayer – Barbara Popejoy

Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 P.M.

Next Meeting: April, 27 Opening/Closing prayer: Beth Hatcher, Lynn Walsh

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Popejoy