

Good Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes by Zoom

October 27, 2020

We are building a Christ-centered community by lovingly welcoming, praying, learning, giving, and serving. (Stewardship Ministry Mission)

Attending: Fr. John Christopher, Interim Rector; Steve Lamar, Senior Warden; Todd Knape, Junior Warden; Alan Northcott, Treasurer. Members: Beth Hatcher, Mary Pierce, Barbara Popejoy, Mike Powell, Andrew Wilson.

Call to Order: 6:10 Fr. John

Opening Reading: Steve Lamar

Introduction of guest, Rev. Anita Braden, Canon to the Ordinary

Bringing greetings from Bishop Redall, Canon Anita expressed her delight to be among us and to recognize the good things that have been occurring at Good Shepherd during Fr. John's time with us. She acknowledged the "Memorandum of Understanding" that was established between Bishop Kirk Smith and the Vestry of Good Shepherd of the Hills January of 2019. We are arriving upon the time to begin the process of discernment for a new rector. The process will likely begin after the first part of 2021.

- Canon will speak with the Senior Warden and the Vestry to discuss the process, which begins with the identification of a clear mission statement, core values, and attributes unique to who we are as a body.
- A Day of Discovery, which involves the entire membership, who, in small groups, will give input to the previously stated items.
- Once the data is accumulated, a Parish Profile will be developed.
- The diocese will work with us, and possibly assign a church consultant to offer teachings on how a vestry works.

Acceptance of September Financials and Meeting Minutes

- Motion to accept - Andrew Wilson, second – Beth Hatcher
- Motion passed

Distribution of Minutes

Recommendation by Clerk of the Vestry, Barbara Popejoy that, beginning with the minutes of this meeting (October), and once approved at the subsequent meeting (November), will then be posted on the church website. The purpose is to demonstrate to the congregation openness and transparency regarding the business of the Vestry. Any parishioner will be able to access the minutes by going to the website, www.goodshepherdaz.org. Vestry agreed to this changed administrative procedure.

Junior Warden Report

- Todd Knappe reviewed the discussion held last meeting regarding the air conditioning situation, namely unit #6 serving Maitland Hall, and #4 serving administrative offices. Copy of the bid and notes by vendor, J.R. Perkins were provided to the vestry for its review.
- The necessity for a crane to remove and install a new unit #6 was also discussed. The Vestry agreed with Todd's recommendations that we continue our relationship with Perkins, without asking for more bids, as they have provided quality work in the past and have demonstrated reliability.
- Discussion as to tax advantages that might affect the date of initiating the project followed. *NOTE: Discussion with accountant October 28 yielded no change of timing.*
- Motion: by Steve Lamar, second, Mary Pierce – Approve the expenditure of \$8,500 for replacement of AC unit #6, plus additional cost of use of a construction crane for removal and installation. Project will begin late January or early February. Performance of unit #4 will be monitored and evaluated at a later point in time.
- Motion passed.

Hand rail ail along ramp in Maitland courtyard. Installed compliments of the Knappe family.

Paver project: Previously discussed, due to the need for expansion of courtyard for group gatherings and potential "outdoor church."

- Motion: Proceed with the project with an expense cap at \$5000, Steve Lamar – Second, Mary Pierce.
- Motion Passed

High water usage: A letter was received from the Town of Cave Creek notifying the church of extremely high water usage. Normal usage has been 10,000 gallons over a period of 30 days. The most recent usage spiked at 75,000 gallons for the same amount of time. A request will be made to the water provider to come out and investigate.

Old Business

Barbara Popejoy reached out to Vestry members on September 25 to ask for their ideas and suggestions in response to the data that had been received from the congregational survey about their wishes for the church. Four themes had been identified *PLEASE NOTE VESTRY MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22.* One response was received.

- Reactivate and add new study programs
- Host Social fellowship programs for small groups as well as parish-wide.

- Support children's and youth ministries and invite them to become more visible parish-wide. Have leaders report to the Vestry and congregation about their events and activities.
- Reach out to members of the congregation to both encourage and invite them to be involved in specific projects and events, and to determine if they have specific needs.
- Urge Vestry members to become more visible to the general congregation and lead efforts to engage.
- With the Holidays coming up, there will be opportunities to help with Adopt-a-Family, next door neighbors, White Mountain Apache Tribe and others. It's up to us to reach out to learn needs.

Stewardship Ministry – Beth Hatcher

- Pledge letters that are unique to this year will be sent out to the congregation on November 9. In addition to financial support, members will also be given specific ministry opportunities to give of their time and talent.
- Emphasis of this In-gathering is on building relationships. Coffee with Mary, Compline, Engaging with Scriptures are examples of bringing people together.

Vestry Membership – Beth Hatcher

- In anticipation of filling vacant spots on the Vestry, Beth is encouraging the group to be thinking about this Vestry responsibility: to develop an understanding of what the role of membership is; to seek servant leaders; leaders whose commitment is to serving and uplifting the church. While Vestry has fiduciary responsibility, it's important to think beyond finances and toward Mission; to seek to work with and support clergy, not oppose clergy. Serving is a covenant with God and The Church.
- Reading pages 73 and 78 of The Vestry Guide is particularly important when equipping Vestry members to form a nominating committee. Please read materials and give input on Vestry selection. Please submit by Nov. 9.

Additional ideas:

- Hold a Vestry retreat at the beginning of the year for the purpose of training, building trust and respect.
- Be willing to serve in various activities and ministries.
- Have a diverse group – balance between services and demographics representative of the entire body.
- Be visible.
- Have 7 or 9 members.

New Business

Internet Service: With the considerable increase of virtual meetings and events, and with the likelihood that it will continue this way, it has become imperative that upgrades to internet service be made. Kristine Kulesza consulted with Robert Martino Electric, which provided an analysis of options to meet our needs. Pros and cons were presented for Hard Wiring Internet vs. Mobile Hotspot. Estimate of cost was also included.

Sound System: Sound for streaming services from the church sanctuary currently is inadequate. There is considerable background noise, echoing, garbled speech and low volume. Re-configured wiring options were presented, including pros and cons.

Website: The church's website has been hacked twice in the past two weeks. Security of financial transactions is at issue, as well as confidence in the integrity of the site content. Changing vendors for website hosting is underway.

Given the technical expertise of Vestry member Andrew Wilson, he will work with Kristine to evaluate all of the options and come up with a plan to implement. Vestry members noted the importance of maintaining the availability of virtual contact and streaming service beyond, and in spite of the current situation; and expressed confidence in a decision taken up by the staff and Andrew.

- Motion, by Steve Lamar – Mary Pierce, second, to invest up to \$4,500 to make the necessary upgrades
- Motion passed

Creation Care

Barbara Popejoy brought up the topic as it was the centerpiece of the Annual Diocesan Convention recently. Materials had been sent to the members for information and to consider establishing a new ministry dubbed, "The Greening of Good Shepherd." To be continued.

Closing Prayer – Beth Hatcher

Meeting adjourned 8:00 PM.

Next Meeting – November, 24

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Popejoy, Clerk of the Vestry