

January 27, 2020 7:30 P.M. Vestry Meeting Minutes

Present at the meeting: Patty Alexander, Rosi Sweeney, Mark MacCarthy, Carl Adams, Joanne Comstock, Frenchie Gogos, Sue Carroll, Donna Alvarez, Kiska Williams, Cliff White, Chuck Cash, Lacy Douglas.

Carl will be time keeper, and Rosi will be the evaluator. Next time Rosi will be prayer leader. This evening Joanne led us in prayer, and Patty led us in a discussion of Ephesians 4:15-16. This evening's agenda was approved, and the previous minutes were reviewed. The December 2019 minutes were approved, and a motion was passed to publish and post the November 2019 and December 2019 minutes.

Rector's Report

Patty thanked the Vestry for flowers following the death of her father-in-law. She also gave thanks for the town hall meeting having gone well and for Mark's attendance at the Diocesan Convention; he will report on the Convention later. Patty updated the Vestry on the Children's/ Youth Ministry. Two families have made special gifts which enable the church to hire a formation person who can get to know St. Dunstan's parish and tailor a program to its needs. Under the topic of Evangelism and Church growth, the new website, developed by Chuck Cash, was discussed. Chuck made a prototype based on user-friendly software. Kim Matthews is excited to be working on this project on a regular basis. Patty said that there is someone in the diocese who will give free assistance in the development of the website. On another topic, Patty is recruiting a Demographic Task Force within the parish to work with the ExecutiveInsite database that the diocese has made available to us. This database includes information about population, age, race, income, living situations and so on in the Washington, D.C. area. Patty has already pulled one report covering the people who live within a six-mile radius of St. Dunstan's. The Vestry has reviewed the report, and it is available to anyone in the parish. Also, applications are due April 30, 2020 for a Congregational Growth Grant.

By invitation from Patty, Joey Arkfeld joined the meeting to discuss his ideas for Fundraisers. Patty invited Rosi to comment on past Fundraisers before a general discussion. Rosi commented that in the past the Vestry has struggled with the idea of asking for money. It would be better if people who attend the Fundraiser go in with the idea that they would contribute a specific amount. Joey notes that music events have been well-attended in the past. He proposes more than one musical Fundraiser. Tickets would cost from \$10 to \$20. (Later in the meeting, Cliff spoke up for a \$20 ticket price.) Joey gave a list of individual and group artists, many of whom would work for free, and all of whom are interested in St. Dunstan's as a venue. These include Joey's jazz quintet, other jazz artists and classical artists. The Vestry was excited by his suggestions. It was noted that because Redeemer has a successful classical series, St. Dunstan's should sponsor jazz concerts. A possibility of having a live auction in conjunction with music performances would be a good idea. Joanne spoke of a successful wine auction which she attended. Patty recruited two volunteers to lead the Fundraising projects. Carl volunteered, but

there was no second volunteer. Patty said that she, Carl and Joey will get together and report to the next Vestry meeting.

Wardens' and Vestry Members' Reports

Rosi said that Lynn Leonard has volunteered to be on the Demographic Task Force. Other volunteers are needed. The next Vestry election was discussed. The nominating committee of Carl, Rosi, Mark and Kiska report that Karen Edwards agrees to stand for election, and Vince Leonard is considering it. Mark and Kiska are rotating off. Carl is putting together a list of Vestry qualifications. Patty notes that Vestry nominees should be givers of record or pledgers. Chuck reported for Buildings and Grounds and circulated a handout. The Buildings and Grounds committee has solicited proposals to fix water problems such as soil erosion, loss of grass and unwanted runoff. The work could total \$20,000, but would be done in increments. No final plans have been made. On another matter, there was an official Vestry vote to approve a \$65,000 transfer from the endowment to cover recent furnace work, past Buildings and Grounds deficits and a reserve fund. On the topic of the Diocesan Convention, Mark attended and reported to the Vestry. He said that three topics were revitalization of the church, inspiring new leadership and social justice ministry. Revitalization will focus on growth, and an on-line school will focus on inspiring new leadership. Social justice includes engagement on issues of racial justice, gun violence, LGBTQ rights and immigration reform. Each region will be asked to focus on one area. Patty said that the Bishop is interested in collaborative ministry.

Treasurer's Report and Discussion of 2020 Budget

Cliff circulated a handout on 2020 Budget Changes and a 2020 Budget Summary. There is a deficit of \$15,960. Patty proposed that we make a list of opportunities for named gifts. Some gifts which received informal approval were support for Jessica in her expenses to become a Deacon and support for Robin's stipend as a Seminarian. Music and Christian formation offer other opportunities. The Vestry discussed whether it is willing to support a deficit budget. Sue pointed out that we are still soliciting gifts to supplement the budget. Cliff said that we need to make big strides especially in our Fundraisers. We can't have a deficit budget every year. Patty said that she would push for the Bishop to target St. Dunstan's for diocesan help to work for congregational vitality. Rosi said that this deficit budget would be an exception for this year. Cliff reminded the Vestry that we must bring in new pledges. The budget was approved by a unanimous vote.

Reminders: The service with Bokamoso Youth is February 2, 2020. The Mardi Gras Jazz Mass and Annual Meeting of the Parish is February 23, 2020. The next Vestry meeting is February 24, 2020. We had a closing prayer and adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Alvarez

