

Vestry Meeting 6-18-2022

Attending: Bernadette Matthews, Ted Ruchalski, Marver Browne, Valerie Curry, Kevin Lee, Marck Mormon, Erica Harris, Marlaina Woodward, Mike Leary, Manuel Holguin. Also attending were Fr Fabio Sotelo, Diane Van Slyke, Mary Lu Rogers.

Absent: Lucy Herrera, Klade Harmon.

1) Meeting opened 8:35 am with reading from Galatians and discussion. In particular, the difference between the law and faith, and the difference between looking for all promised for the future and effecting our lives in the present.

2) Financial report was given by Diane: offerings were up, due in part to a month with five Sunday's, and to the response to the appeal to support Karen Anderson in her position as our Associate Curate. We are a little ahead on the budget, but bear in mind that the hot season is slower for receipts.

This year we will do an internal review instead of a full audit, and we are looking for a new auditor for the future. Volunteers asked for the review: Marck, Erica, Mike, and Marver will assist Diane; Bernadette will advise only from a distance.

Our mortgage expires in October, 2023, and we will need to refinance in that time. Mortgages for churches seem to be limited to 5 years, but we may be able to get a longer one. We still owe \$300,000.

We are reviewing the accounting program we are using: Realm is being assessed. It is less expensive and more user friendly, and our bookkeeper is familiar with it already. Finance committee is recommending we change over to Realm. With this program, parishioners can log in and check their statements and donate online, and statements can be emailed instead of printed and mailed. It can replace the directory. All the information in the present program can be transferred to the new program without having to enter it manually. Ted moves that we replace our present program with Realm; Marlaina seconded. The motion carried.

3) Fr Fabio is continuing his studies at Suwanee and enjoying his classes. The classes continue through next week, and he has papers to submit in September.

Karen's ordination is next Saturday and will be live-streamed. He and Karen have already worked out the schedule through September.

He will have vacation July 4 - 22, part of it in Columbia.

We need to have a conversation about how safe we are in church, with the vestry and with the ushers. This is in response to the violence in this country, lastly with the shooting at St. Stephen's this week. Bernadette has consulted the police and will have a visit with them; they probably have a protocol or plan for this already. Valerie suggested that vestry members think of safety protocols on welcoming. Ted requested she get a copy of the protocol used at her school for the vestry to look at to get some idea of what questions to ask when the police come

and do their assessment and advice. Fr Fabio suggested that a committee do this: Valerie, Ted, Kevin, and Mike want to be part of this, and Fr Fabio suggested that Darcy Tatum be included in this also. Valerie suggested that for the short term, issue a statement that for meetings, open the door, close the door, lock the door. Bernadette commented that we already have some of this in place.

5) Marver reported at this time, due to time constraints. She needs the paperwork from the members who attended the Safeguarding meetings/courses. This one was for children; the course about adults still needs completing.

4) Ted reported on the summer checkup on the air conditioning: we have 11 units. All got filters changed and some needed refrigerant. All are topped up and running except the one for the Narthex where the compressor has given out. This unit is 15 years old and needs to be replaced. He has requested several quotes on this. We do have the funds for this, but when the work is done, he would like to ask for a special collection to replenish the emergency fund that Blanding supplied. Fr Fabio suggested that we check what we have besides Blanding's contributions in the way of pledged donations for the physical plant. Ted will email the best quote with a motion to the vestry and requested a quick response. Mike asked that the vestry consider waiting until the end of the peak season for the replacement, as it will be less expensive in the fall. This will be considered.

On the Strategic Plan, on Year 1, Ted will be meeting with Lucy and the committee and go over the plan. The rest of the members involved are gathering information and planning meetings. Marver has already begun checking on the fixed asset review.

We will not have a July meeting, but Ted will be sending an email out to find out how everyone is doing.

6) Everything Bernadette had to talk about has been discussed. She and Leslie Nystrom (Verger) will be going to Karen's ordination.

7) Valerie reported on the Family Promise meeting: there is a shortage of volunteers in the summer. Marck stepped in for one gap, but more volunteers are needed. Also, St. Edward's was asked to do another week of hosting, perhaps in October. (Valerie is recovering from Covid.)

Manuel also commented that Covid is on the rise again. Fr Fabio reminded us that we have access to protocols, and that announcements should include not attending church if you don't feel well and wear masks most of the time.

8) Fr Fabio commented that the diocese is sure that St. Edward's is going in the right direction. He invites us to pray for our sister community in Alabama and victims of violence. Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 10:12 am.

The next meeting will be August 20, 2022 at 8:30 am.

Submitted 6-18-22

Mary Lu Rogers, Clerk

