

Vestry Meeting 10-22-2022

Attending: Bernadette Matthews, Marver Browne, Valerie Curry, Marck Morman, Ted Ruchalski, Kevin Lee, Marlaina Woodward, Manuel Holguin. Also attending were Fr Fabio Sotelo, Mother Karen Anderson, Diane Van Slyke, William Paawewe, Mary Lu Rogers, and Canon John Thompson-Quartey

Absent: Klade Harmon, Mike Leary, Erica Harris, Lucy Herrera.

1) Meeting was called to order 10:35 am with five vestry members present. Meeting was opened with Morning Prayer.

2) Financial report given by Bill Paasewe: third quarter assessment is positive compared to last year. Receipts, however, fell short of expectations and of budget. Our expense levels have been held down except for grounds maintenance and building use. The conclusion is that our performance for the third quarter is higher than last year, but we need to increase the number of pledges. Diane added that with the Parish Administrator position filled and Mother Karen on board, we need to be aware that our expenses will be more in the coming year.

3) Canon John added a prayer for Canon Winston to the opening of his presentation. It has been almost seven years since we have had a rector, and we were “adopted” by the diocese. Soon we need to be standing on our own again, with a rector. So the diocese will ask us to increase our contribution to the diocese for our priests over the next three years (\$55,000 next year, \$75,000 the next year, full amount the next) to the point that we can assume the whole responsibility. Since we are planning the budget for 2023 now, we need to plan for this. We can call the Priest-in-Charge or another priest at any time, providing we can support them; we don't have to wait the three years. We have a one-year contract with Mother Karen, and we have to make sure that we can support her.

4) Ted introduced the updates on the Strategic Plan. Ted and Lucy are working on implementing the plan to increase our congregation with the IWC practice from St. David's. So far they are planning a “Come and See How to Grow Your Faith” day on January 8, 2023, with a reception to follow.

Klade and Erica are working on the Endowment Fund; Bernadette and Mike are working on planned giving. Bernadette reported that the joined group was waiting for this meeting to hear what the diocese had in mind. Now they will meet again. Canon John recommended Lindsey Hardegree who is a guru for planned giving.

Valerie is working with the two local elementary schools, Lawrenceville Co-op, and Family Promise, to bring all of them into our giving program.

Marlaina and Marck are working on the congregation interviews, getting people interested and involved in this. Bernadette volunteered to be the interviewer on the first one. Diane will ask her husband if he will take part.

Ted and Lucy plan to work on better communication for a bilingual congregation next year.

Marver and Kevin will be working on fixed asset list in the coming year.

Canon John signed off after the updates.

5) Bernadette spoke with Canon John yesterday about taking the Strategic Plan to the congregation, since this is very serious. We have to be really open about this, especially the finances. A community garden is also in the planning process.

6) Our delegates to the diocesan conference will be Fr Fabio, Mother Karen, with Jeannette Best-Nunez and Martha Padron as substitutes.

7) The results of the survey on preferred service times were reviewed: most preferred a single service in English, most at 9:30 am, and the Spanish will be either 12:30 or 1 pm. The 12:30 time was not included in the choices but would be better for the Hispanic congregation who voted for 1 pm service. This gives Carla a few minutes between services and makes contact between the groups easier. Bernadette moved to continue the English service at 9:30 am and move the Spanish service to 12:30 pm. Ted seconded, and the motion passed with seven votes. No nays.

Fr Fabio and Mother Karen met with the youth and listened to the ideas presented. We are fortunate to have the clergy working with the youth.

Congratulations to all for the celebration of St. Edward's Day. He thinks this is the best one yet. Diane watched the service online and was moved.

8) Meeting closed 12:08 with the Lord's Prayer and with intention for Patricia and Yolanda, Ignatia, and Mr. Marsh, Bill & Gay, Rick & Fay, those in detention centers, homeless, facing challenges, depressed.

Next vestry meeting will be November 19, 2022, ant 8:30 am.

Submitted 10-22-2022

Mary Lu Rogers, Clerk