

## Vestry Meeting 9-23-2023

**Attending:** Jennifer Khaleel, Valerie Curry, Erica Harris, Kevin Lee, Ted Ruchalski, Cecilia Midzi, Teresa Guzman, Bernadette Matthews. Also attending were Fr Fabio Sotelo, William Paasewe, and Mary Lu Rogers.

**Absent:** Marlaina Grant, Marck Morman, Brenda Tambe-Dahn, and Martha Cuenca.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Fr Fabio. The meeting is a week later than the usual schedule because of the Fall Festival last Saturday. The reading from Matthew was read sequentially by sentence, then in total. The vestry were invited to share the phrases that stood out to them. There followed a discussion of "fairness". Fr Fabio pointed out the relationship between mercy and justice.

Bill Paasewe presented the financial report for August. Collections were much higher than expected, in large part because of collections for the mortgage payoff campaign. Even for summer when attendance is lower due to vacations, we are doing well enough, and compatible with previous years.

Jennifer announced that the loan from the diocese was approved and that she and Mary Lu went downtown yesterday to sign the papers and receive the check, which is now in Fr Fabio's keeping. Bill showed that the payoff to the bank as of October 4 is \$285,604.80. After the \$200,000 loan, that leaves \$85,604.80 of which we have collected \$73,821. If no other moneys are collected, we will need to borrow \$11,783.80 (temporarily). Erica pointed out that the pledges were planned through December. Bill and Fr Fabio reassured her that although we would like to pay the loan off in October, the bank did offer the church an extension until December. The money borrowed would be borrowed from the operational account and be paid back as the payoff pledges are fulfilled. Ted moved that the church pay off the mortgage next week. Cecilia seconded the motion. Motion passed with all the eight votes present.

The vestry now must begin working on the budget for next year. Members are to contact their ministry heads and get numbers together.

St. Edward's Day is October 15; the church will provide hamburgers and hot dogs after the bilingual service. The bishop is visiting October 29<sup>th</sup>, and there will be baptisms and confirmations for which we need to prepare.

Bernadette confirms that we are planning Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 28. Please decorate your trunk and provide candy. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. The event is from 4 to 7 pm. Flyers will be printed for handing out. It will be announced on social media as well.

The Fall Festival Committee is meeting tomorrow to go over everything. Ted and Cecilia both commented on the good organization and wonderful energy in spite of the rain. The consensus was that for a first event, it did well.

Registration was completed for the 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Council in November.

The first Bible Study meeting was held on Wednesday evening. These will be every other Wednesday, so the next one is October 4<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer invited the vestry to support this. Valerie suggested that it be the first and third or something else regular, so that people can follow the schedule.

Jennifer would like the vestry to have an in-person breakfast meeting in either November or December. She had picked the date of December 16, and wanted to know if all could come. Valerie suggested an evite so that the date can be inked into members' schedules early.

Fr Fabio reviewed the report of the parochial report data for the Episcopal Church up to 2022, then the data from St. Edward's. In particular, there are many members of the church who no longer attend services in person. How can we reach out to them and find out what the issues are? The pandemic was a traumatic event, and not everyone is comfortable returning. We no longer have the 8 o'clock service, and the times of services have changed.

Jennifer opened the floor to members: nothing additional was added.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer. Fr Fabio asked prayers for parishioners with health issues, particularly Ted, now out of hospital, and others, also for Teresa who lost her father two weeks ago. This was concluded with the Lord's Prayer at 10:37 am.

The next meeting will be October 21, 2023, via Zoom.

Submitted 9-23-2023.

Mary Lu Rogers, Clerk