

Vestry Meeting 11-18-2023

Attending: Brendalyne Tamba-Dahn, Marlaina Grant, Bernadette Matthews, Valerie Curry, Jennifer Khaleel, Ted Ruchalski, Erica Harris, Cecilia Midzi, Teresa Guzman and Martha Cuenca. Also attending were Fr Fabio Sotelo, Mary Lu Rogers, William Paasewe, and Darcy Tatum.

Absent: Kevin Lee, Marck Morman

Meeting called to order at 8:33 am (originally scheduled for 8:30 to accommodate church schedule) with part of the Morning Prayer service.

Senior Warden report was postponed.

Bernadette reported on the Fall Festival: it was successful despite the rain. The vendors commented on the placement of booths and the way food was accessed. It netted over \$16,000 with expenses just over \$5,000, so the profit was \$10,453.61 which will go to refurbishing Nickelson Hall.

Congratulations to all for the bishop's visit, and thanks from Jennifer. Bishop Wright toured Promise Haven and asked Fr Fabio to tell the story of the mortgage again. He seemed well pleased with St. Edward's.

The Diocesan Council Meeting council meeting last weekend was Jennifer's first and impressed her. She recommends attending to any who gets the opportunity. Anyone can attend, but only the delegates can vote. Attendees must register ahead of time.

Valerie and Jennifer attended the annual church women's meeting two weeks ago at St. Mary and Martha. That church has a community garden. The meetings discussed and supported various ministries.

We have plans to make Nickelson Hall run more efficiently, beginning with having different ministries prepare and serve coffee hour, since we have the same ladies doing all the work every week at present. Think about this, and at the next meeting we will decide how to do this. Brotherhood is going to host it on December 17. And it doesn't have to be a whole meal; keep it simple. The rest is tabled until next meeting.

Ted reported that the lights in the breezeway use expensive bulbs and expensive fixtures. As they burn out, they are being replaced with LED fixtures.

We have a donation from Shirley to replace the toilets in the women's toilet in the Narthex: the present ones are somewhat low.

There is a new key box now in the counting room. Also there is a new money safe in the counting room.

Fr Fabio reported that we have a full calendar for Advent and asks all to take part.

The Annual Meeting will be held January 28th; Vestry retreat will be held February 10th.

Valerie wanted to know if we would still be collecting gift cards for the kids in Family Promise. She was assured that that will be done.

Bill Paasewe began his report by asking if there were any questions. Valerie asked if there was an annual donation to Family Promise and urged the vestry to see that an annual donation be set up. Fr Fabio replied that the pledge cards have space where individuals can pledge for the charities of their choice. The last couple of months have been a little slow, but our financial status remains healthy. We are still on track with our intake and expenses.

We are in budget season and want to encourage donations. The new budget will continue to be revised to the end of December when all the numbers will be in.

Our bookkeeper reports that \$14,620 is outstanding on all the pledges made to pay off the mortgage.

Jennifer thanked Bill and the finance committee for all their work and invited them to join us in person for our December meeting.

Fr Fabio was asked to excuse himself from the meeting and the vestry entered an executive session.

Jennifer reported that the bishop asked if we would like to have Fr Fabio as our permanent rector. He wants our decision on this. The financial aspect is problematic, and the bishop said that he would make sure this happened. There followed much discussion. First, does the vestry want Fr Fabio as our permanent rector? Do we have to decide today? What is the deadline for deciding. Then, do we have financial data to see what we can approach the bishop with? Can we think about it? Don't we need the entire vestry to take part in this? Jennifer asked the vestry members to think about it and send her a private email of yes or no on the question of wanting Fr Fabio as a permanent rector. Ted wanted a vote on the record either now or in a special meeting in a week. Jennifer agrees that it must be on record, but she will collect private opinions before the next meeting.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving. Travel safely. The next meeting will be scheduled by email.

Fr Fabio returned to the meeting to close the meeting with prayer at 10:05 am.

The next scheduled meeting is in person at Nickelson Hall December 16, 2023, at 9 am.

Submitted 11-18-2023

Mary Lu Rogers

Continuation of executive meeting, 11-25-2023

Jennifer called for a brief meeting on 11-25 for a formal vote on one question after all the vestry had time for consideration and prayer.

Attending: Jennifer Khaleel, Ted Ruchalski, Bernadette Matthews, Marck Morman, Cedilia Midzi, Erica Harris, Teresa Guzman, Martha Cuenca, Brenda Tamba-Dahn, Kevin Lee, and Marlaina Grant. Also attending were Fr Fabio Sotelo, Darcey Tatum, Diane VanSlyke, Mary Lu Rogers.

Absent: Valerie Curry (already sent in her vote)

Meeting called to order at 9:09 am by Jennifer. Fr Fabio led an excerpt of Morning Prayer, then spoke of his history at St. Edward's and the bishop's asking him if he were ready to be the rector at St. Edward's. He has applied to us, saw that a quorum was present, and is open to questions. Cecilia spoke to reassure Fr Fabio that the delay in the vote was for discernment only. Bernadette asked when, if the vestry voted yes, would the congregation be informed? Jennifer commented that the request of the bishop was to put the question to the vestry first. Diane commented that when a search committee presents a candidate, he/she is presented to the vestry for acceptance, not to the congregation. Jennifer requested Fr Fabio to leave the meeting at 9:28 am and resumed the conversation by relating the bishop's questions to Marck and Kevin, since they had not been at the previous meeting. She recommended that the vestry stand on faith in voting. Diane recommended that the vote not depend on money. Darcy recommended that the vestry vote yes, and that he plans to run for the vestry next year. Ted endorsed Fr Fabio as vestry. Teresa agreed with Ted and the previous discussion.

At 9:41 am Jennifer moved that Fr Fabio be accepted as permanent rector at St. Edward's. Ted seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. Jennifer will get a letter to the bishop next week.

Darcy brought up an opportunity to rent out the basement of Nickelson Hall. This will be looked at in the next regular meeting.

At 9:50 am Fr Fabio returned to the meeting and spoke of his joy for St. Edward's. He offered a blessing to close the meeting at 9:52 am.

Submitted 11-25-2023

Mary Lu Rogers

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