

Vestry Meeting 1-18-2025

Attending: Jennifer Khaleel, Darcey Tatum, Alma Hurtado, Cecilia Midzi, Ruth Mannah, Brendalyne Tamba-Dahn, Martha Cuenca, Teresa Guzman, Lorenzo Clarke and Valerie Curry. Also attending were Fr Fabio Sotelo, Diane VanSlyke, William Paasewe, and Mary Lu Rogers.

Absent: Marck Morman, Erica Harris

At 9:05 am Fr Fabio opened the meeting with prayer for the vestry and for the parish.

Jennifer opened the floor for the financial report by Bill Paasewe. He presented the budget for 2025 with comparison to 2024. Expenses will be higher this year as we will not be getting \$45,000 from the diocese this year. This must all be on us to prove that we can support a rector. Darcey commented on the increase in spending and expenses, asking that we do not expect large amounts donated to the special offerings, especially the mortgage. After discussion, he declined to quibble, but alerted the vestry to the fact that he has heard from people in the church that money for special offerings is about tapped out. The financial committee agree that costs still have to be contained; for this reason they meet every month and review everything and will continue to do so.

Fr Fabio reported that in the meeting with the Diocese it was apparent that the parish is committed to standing up and continuing to support itself.

Bill finished by commenting that this is the most realistic budget we have had yet.

Alma reported that the automatic draft option is not working, and that offerings need to be in envelopes, especially at the 12:30 service where most offerings are in cash, so that the special offerings the money is to go to can be noted.

Darcey, Bill, Diane and Jennifer discussed some tweaks on expenses for utilities and a prospective sign that has not been purchased or approved yet.

Darcey proposes that the vestry approve this as a draft budget and questioned the need for \$4000 for sound and light. Discussion followed; Jennifer called Ted and found out that this is for speakers for the nave, but this was taken out by the vestry.

Valerie seconded the motion; motion was carried by all.

Jennifer pointed out that the vestry also needs to vote on the increase (cost of living) in Fr Fabio's salary. Darcey confirmed that this also increases pension and health care expenses. Valerie moved that we increase Fr Fabio's compensation as proposed to make a total of \$135,000. Darcey seconded the motion; carried.

We had a surplus this year of a little over \$5000. Jennifer suggested that we take \$3500 of that toward the audit for this year. We do not have to documentation for this surplus at this time, so this is tabled for now.

Jennifer reported on the discussion with the bishop: he wants an MMR assessment and a parish-wide survey, but we are doing well and he hopes to install Fr Fabio as rector possibly in June.

Fr Fabio wanted all the vestry to be present for the Annual Meeting next Sunday, January 26. It will begin with a bilingual service at 10 am followed by pot luck in Nickelson Hall. Please bring something to share.

Vestry Retreat will be February 15 beginning with breakfast at 8:30 am. At 2 pm there will be a business meeting of the vestry. Attendance of the meeting will be awarded with a certificate.

Marver Browne and Leslie Nystrom need to know which heads of ministry or vestry members have not completed Safeguarding God's Children in the last 3 years. It is a requirement.

Fr Fabio closed the meeting with prayer at 10:13 am.

Submitted by Mary Lu Rogers, Clerk

January 18, 2025