

St. Peter's Episcopal Church / Vestry Minutes, August 27, 2019

Members in attendance: Wyndie Eberle(remote), Debbie Giordan, Kim Ribbens, Ned Smith, John Sobke, Paul Soderberg, Randy Stolt, Judy Sweeterman, Adrienne Williams, Rev. Kelly Steele.

Also attending: Doug Eberle, Finance Chair(remote), Emilie Miller, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Kelly began the meeting with a reading of Luke 14:1,7-14. The selection was read, and the Vestry was asked to reflect on how it relates to St. Peter's. One thought that surfaced was the charge to invite without expectation.

John then led a reciting of the Vestry Commitment.

Consent Agenda:

The July minutes which had been approved by email were amended to add the following per Bob Gilbert's request:

"There was a brief discussion of possible endowment funded projects. The treasurer will forward a list to the endowment committee."

The following Finance Committee motion was unanimously approved:

The Finance Committee recommends Vestry approval for depositing the Robert C. Tripp Fund annual distribution for the years 2019 and 2020; and The Market @ 3 West Ridge's facilities fee for 2019 and 2020 if the facilities fee contribution is given; directly into the Maintenance Reserve Fund (MRF). The operating (pledge income) MRF contribution would correspondently be reduced to \$6,250 in 2019 and \$5,000 in 2020.

Church Administration:

Financial

Doug reviewed the Finance Committee report. One item that stands out is the higher than anticipated non-pledge giving – this includes plate offerings from people who did not pledge as well as amounts given above pledge. Pledge revenue continues as anticipated and expenses are on budget.

Doug mentioned that the renewal offer for the property casualty insurance had just been received and that it included a 25% increase. The Finance Committee will explore alternatives.

Nominating Committee

John Sobke reported that John Kleine (Nominating Committee chair) is in the process of gathering his committee.

Annual Meeting Date

Kelly explained that there are only two possible Sundays in January for the annual meeting. Current planning is for the 19th but it will be confirmed later. Vestry voiced unanimous support for that date.

Diocesan Assessment Appeal

John circulated the appeal letter. All expressed hope that since we are on time with our request it will be accepted.

Strategic Planning Team

Randy recapped the activities of the team. On Saturday, August 24, the first leadership meeting was held. Approximately a third of the leadership team attended. It included an exercise designed to help prioritize the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) which emerged from the parish wide meetings and demographic research. Those who attended felt the exercise and the meeting were very worthwhile. The final leadership meeting is scheduled for September 9 with a Parish wide meeting on October 6.

Church Mission/Ministry

Kelly presented a handout of the Fall program calendar; copies will be placed strategically around the church. Noting that it represents a very full selection of offerings, it was suggested that some advertising would be beneficial. One suggestion was to make a postcard of the Exploring Spirit Workshop series which will be led by Dr. Westina Mathews.

Kelly gave an update on Invite+Welcome+Connect, the Newcomers initiative. The group is tracking all newcomers who provide contact information and making certain that someone is in touch with them. They have identified 17 newcomers/families to date. Plans are in the works for newcomers' events in the fall, including the blessing of the gardeners.

John led a discussion of how to structure the Bishop's visit on September 15. A vestry lunch will be scheduled as well as a larger than normal coffee hour.

John announced that the Vestry Corner for the first three weeks of September would be written by: John Kleine on Nominating Committee, Kelly Steele on Diocesan Meeting, and Randy Stolt on Strategic Planning.

Debbie gave a brief update on the St. Peter's Gala planning. A date has not been set but it will be in the Spring at St. Peter's.

Church Property:

Paul Soderberg reported the final air sampling by Whitaker lab was conducted on August 15. We met all levels as suggested by Whitaker for a totally clean bill of health on the mold spore count. This was greeted with applause.

The Whitaker report of July 1, 2019 showed that all locations in the sanctuary except in the south east corner near the organ had already met the criteria for “negligible” mold spores. On August 12, SERVPRO did another detailed remediation of known mold in the organ plus a full cleaning of the walls of the sanctuary, cleaning of the choir area, cleaning all the exterior organ woodwork and remediating minor mold areas identified earlier by Whitaker. In addition, the organ was evaluated by Tim’s technician from Nashville who confirmed that there was no mold in sight. Other big contributors to the mold remediation were the two new 500 pints/day dehumidifiers, painting and caulking of the windows and finding and repairing the water leak that had been causing water accumulation in an HVAC duct.

Closing:

Kelly led the Prayer for St. Peter’s and the Keep Watch evening prayer. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

The next Vestry meeting is September 24 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilie Miller, Vestry Clerk