

VESTRY MINUTES
Sunday, December 17, 2023

PRESENT: Linda Bourque, Katie Chipman-Bergsma, Nikki Clark, Sandy DePlonty, Ruth Neveu, Stephen Stiling, Cal Woodard. **ABSENT:** None. **GUEST:** , Virginia Mannisto

1. **Opening:** Linda Bourque opened the meeting at 11:22 a.m. with a prayer.

2. **Review Agenda:** No changes.

3. **Public Comment:** None

4. **Ministry Support Team:** Katie Chipman-Bergsma reported the MST has decided to take down the Christmas decorations in the church on January 7. The next MST meeting is January 11 at 4p.m via ZOOM. Also, Saturday January 20 is the youth event. It has also been decided to try a meditative walk with meditative music program in the church on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the evening from 5 to 6 p.m. for the month of January. There was some discussion of the church's insurance policy. It was felt that it should be okay as it is a church sanctioned event. Also some concerns about carpet wear upstairs. It is being advertised on the website and on the Facebook page. On January 6, UP Wild Church will be held in St. Ignace. **Cal moved that we approve the "Walk with Me" program. seconded by Stephen Stiling for the month of January to see how the program will work. No opposition or abstentions, motion carried.** Looking for somebody to do morning prayer on March 17 as MST is moving to that date due to the timing of Easter. **Cal Woodard moved, Sandy seconded that we approach other people who can preside such as Marna and David to come over to preside on some of our Sundays. No opposition or abstentions, motion carried.** The current vestry will be the discernment team, Rayford Ray and Gin suggested that everyone who is currently on the vestry be the discernment team. Rayford Ray will be coming over to begin the discernment process and he will be bringing over some other members of the diocese. Discussion regarding the membership of St. James. Discussion of age restrictions regarding various positions. Pam shared with the MST various calendar information including information about the discretionary funds Discussion about the epiphany books .

5. **Review/Approval of Vestry Minutes of November 19, 2023: Motion to approve the minutes by Sandy DePlonty with some typo corrections seconded by Nikki Clark. No opposition or abstentions, motion carried.**

6. **Treasurers / Endowment / Budget Approval:** The financial report was presented and will be on file in the office. Discussion of youth funds. Local youth programs are a line item and then there are donations, which are designated funds that need to be used for that particular purpose. The EasyTith program will be discontinued as it is now going up to \$35.00 per month for that program. The diocese uses a program, which Pam Briglio might be able to see if it would work for us.

7. Committee Reports

- a. **Christian Education** – Formation classes that were held via zoom were finished and there will be more classes starting in January. There will be training in January to try and make sure everyone is on the same page when it comes to the various services. Discussion regarding having batteries for the speakers in a space that can be accessible during a service so we can change them on the fly if necessary.
- b. **ECW Report** – None
- c. **Outreach** – Cal Woodard delivered all the donations (food and toys) that had been brought to the church. At the instruction of Susan Harries, Ruth Neveu purchased and delivered five Wal-Mart

cards at \$50.00 each and more toys to the Salvation Army. The money for the gift cards came from the Soo Co-op Credit Union Youth funds.

8. Senior Warden's Report: Sandy presented the 2024 budget proposal. The pledge information was presented however, only four pledges had been received therefore the draft budget was based on past pledges. Some of the figures in the proposed budget were discussed and it was decided that the draft budget needed some refinement. Various changes were discussed as to how items were charged to various line items and the numbers were discussed. Sandy collected all the information and will be conveyed to Pam Briglio for a final budget. Sandy, Cal, and Stephen will be setting up a meeting with Pam Briglio to plug in the numbers, etc. This revised budget will be presented at the next vestry meeting before the Annual meeting. Discussion of the candle on the altar and the cost of the oil, etc. Discussion of the loan and how that could be reported as a liability. discussion of water leaks above the organ, Cal Woodard relayed that when the winds blow from a particular direction there is a potential for leakage, therefore the organ is covered just in case of a problem. Discussion of obtaining church program to help keep track of expenses and income.

9. Junior Warden's Report: Cal Woodard reported on the status of the thermal recovery unit project. Ranck's contract has been finished except for the removal and installation of the flood lights illuminating the area above the high altar. The lift could not be used for this project and scaffolding will need to be found that can go up to 30 feet. Also the fan could not be changed out at this time until scaffolding can be found to get up to the ceiling. They will be working on continuing this project and hope to install three rheostats behind the organ and put the new fan in during the month of January 2024. The fan and rheostats were donated, and we are waiting on the cost of labor and scaffolding for the remainder of the project. There is approximately \$4,000 remaining of the loan funds available. Therefore, we may be able to return \$3,000 out of that loan. We also may be able to turn the heat down more as we experience this new way of heating the building. We will also be watching to see how much more electricity is used to run the fans, LED lights, and thermal recovery units. Donations have been coming in for the thermal recovery units and we need to figure out how to send those donations payments to the loan.

10. Old Business: Linda suggested a list of what needs to be done each month by each position, Sr. Warden, etc.

11. New Business: Discussion of new Vestry Members for 2024.

Sandy made the motion and Stephen Stiling seconded to give a \$100 gift card from Applebee's to thank Richard and Mary Moran for the work that was done on the pews when they were moved and put back and place. They made the braces for the pews and painted them. No opposition or abstentions, motion carried.

12. Next Vestry Meeting: January 21, 2024. Annual Meeting – Sunday January 28, 2024

13. Adjournment and Closing Prayers: Motion to adjourn made by Sandy DePlonty with a second by Katie Chipman-Bergsma. No opposition or abstentions, motion carried.

Adjourned at 2:03p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Neveu

Clerk of the Vestry