

VESTRY MINUTES - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 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 11:45 a.m. with a prayer.

2. **Review:** Agenda no changes

3. **Public Comment:** Maybe asked if everyone had gotten enough cookies

4. **Ministry Support Team:** The MST is taking the month of September off. Virginia Mannisto reported / encouraged the Vestry to start the discernment process; it takes two-three years for the process to unfold. She brought a simple outline to help us understand the process. A couple of people would be invited to be on the discovery team. There would be a consultant that would go through the process. Pam could provide a list of the congregation. Then the discovery team will walk through the process with the congregation to help discern the needs/roles needed and people that have the gifts to be a part of this team. There is a booklet that will help. Gin discussed how the whole process would work. Everyone learning along together is the goal of the process. It is not a reward for people, it is not an enticement and it is not a punishment to be asked to consider a particular role. There was then discussion of the history of discernment at St. James. There was discussion of the fact that discernment could be a self awareness process. **Katie Chipman-Bergsma motioned to begin the discernment process Cal Woodard seconded. Discussion regarding the need to expand our leadership, Cal indicated a process is needed. No opposition or abstentions, motion carried.** COM Commission on Ministry meets the first Saturday in October where this will be discussed.

5. **Review/Approval of Vestry Minutes September 17, 2023: Motion to approve the minutes made by Nikki Clark seconded by Katie Chipman-Bergsma. No opposition or abstentions, motion carried.**

6. **Treasurer's / Endowment / Budget Approval:** The financial report was presented and will be on file in the office. It shows that we are \$8,965.60 above our year to date budget. The loan of \$30,000 appears to be under miscellaneous. The loan is for the heat reduction (fan installation and lighting project)The interest rate for the loan is four percent for 60 months. The report shows the amounts that were posted at the end of August.

7. Committee Reports

- a. **Christian Education** – Christian formation class will be meeting on zoom again starting Oct. 2 on Wed. every other week.
- b. **ECW Report** – None
- c. **Outreach** – Brenda from Recovery is back up and running with zoom

8. **Senior Warden's Report: Annual Convention meeting in Oct. Cal Woodard moved to nominate Katie, Dave, Margaret and Ruth as delegates. Arthur might go as a visitor and St. James will be paying millage, hotel and registration. The understanding is that Susan is going as a delegate for Detour or Mackinac Island. Linda Bourque seconded . No opposition or abstentions, motion carried.**

9. Junior Warden's Report:

Energy Conservation Project.

- The loan application for \$30,000.00 was approved the terms are four percent for 60 months. There will be a monthly payment of \$552.20 starting Sept. 1st.
- The contract with Ranck Electric was signed on July 25, 2023. We must provide materials to the contractors. The four fan units have been received and a check for \$17,356.00 was disbursed for the thermal recovery units. Half of the payments for the units was sent to Roger Salais on August 10, 2023 (\$2,099.50). Lighting has been ordered from Everything Electric and we are awaiting receipt of the product.
- Issues – Timeline for the start of work. Ranck Electric is planning on renting a single man lift to do the work and we are awaiting availability. Also the power conduits will need painting from galvanized steel to brown or black. We will need a work crew to do this or outsource the paint job.

- Thermal recovery units – Roger Salais stated that the galvanized units are the best option versus black exterior. Also the conduit power line must be provided and installed by J. Ranck Electric.

Current Status:

- In order for J. Ranck Electric to start work the lighting and thermal recovery units must be on hand.
- Cal Woodard will coordinate with J. Ranck. There is the possibility of slipping the schedule to spring 2024. This would allow for all material to be on hand and to get the painting work done.

Restoration of the Herald Board: The herald board has been removed because the glass was falling off. Carl Deplonty has volunteered to do the work. A donation of \$500.00 has been given to get started. This project will not be quick. I will be setting up the furnace room so Carl and helpers can do the work, hopefully over the winter. Herald Board lettering can be provided by americansignletter.com, phone number 877.704.5170 White on Black letters 3 1/4" x 1 7/16" letters needed 115 pieces at a cost of \$174.50.

For informational purposes - There was a company that was black top sealing the church next door, Cal Woodard got a quote for an estimated cost of \$3,500.00 to seal the St. James parking lot.

With the help of Arthur the shed has been painted, the cross in the flower garden has been painted, the sign board has been painted, they painted the lines in the parking lot also Arthur has cleaned all of the brass in the church. It would be good to have Pam put a thank you in the newsletter, when you see the brass and painting that has been done we have Arthur to thank.

Katie Chipman-Bergsma reported that she has been communicating with DOE and Interfaith Power and Light regarding the grant process. Cal Woodard has been trying to get in touch with Jennifer Young of Interfaith Power and Light regarding the process. He asked Katie Chipman-Bergsma to assist him with this communication as he does not do the email/electronic access information process.

Also Coffee hour has started again and hopefully people will start signing up again. It is now fall and it will be nice to have coffee and something for the cooler times. We will request that Pam Briglio put something in the newsletter.

0. Old Business: MST has discussed the Christmas Eve Service and they would like to have the service at 5:30 with no morning service as Christmas is on a Sunday this year. **Katie Chipman-Bergsma moved to approve the time and Sandy Deplonty seconded. No Opposition or abstentions, motion carried.**

11. New Business: Katie Chipman-Bergsma motioned not to renew annual zoom account, but we will have the option of using Gin Mannisto's zoom account Nikki Clark seconded

11. Next Vestry Meeting: October 16, 2023 – 11 a.m. approximately.

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

Adjourned at 12:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Neveu

Clerk of the Vestry