

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting, Wednesday, April 24, 2024

At 6:35 p.m. the Rev. Dixon Kinser called the meeting to order and gave a devotion.

Those in attendance were Carol Davis, Ralph Womble, Sheldon Moser, Salem Parham, Kathryn Vernon, Brant Snavely, Charlotte Broughton, Elizabeth Repetti, Jack Scruggs, Morris Friedman, Matthew Phillips, the Rev. Lucy Strandlund, the Rev. Nick VanHorn, Tom McDowell, Julie Williams, Mac DuBose, and Betsy Reiners.

Dixon called for a motion to accept the minutes for the March vestry meeting, as presented. Ralph made a motion and Jack seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mac Dubose, as the chair of the St. Paul's Investment committee gave a report on the funds being invested on St. Paul's behalf.

Julie Williams, St. Paul's treasurer reported on year-to-date financials and the report is included here:

The Finance Committee met on April 23, 2024, to discuss the March 2024 financial statements. Attached are some notes from the meeting. Financial Highlights:

- *Pledges are behind compared to last year, but last year was abnormally high*
- *Expenses highlights:*
 - o *Maintenance – over budget due to vestry approved roof repair*
 - o *Administration – overage YTD is due to timing of insurance payments*

Financial Collars:

The financial collar calculation shows that there is over 6 months (approx. 7.5 months) of operating expenses in reserves.

- o *This means the Church is considered to be in possible financial distress*
- o *Once the capital campaign has repaid the church, we are anticipating that there will no longer be any level of financial distress, as there will be almost 10 months of operating expenses in reserves*
- *Although we are in a surplus position, under the financial collars calculation the church is in “possible financial distress,” the Finance Committee recommends that the Vestry not undertake any additional new initiatives or elective expenditures unless they can be funded by sources outside of the general budget.*
- *Although reserves remain fairly strong, the Committee is especially concerned about the trend of mounting losses and advises against any new financial commitment.*

Tom McDowell requested approval of a disbursement from the Williams Fund, at the W-S Foundation, for the ReNewal capital campaign, in the amount of \$192,000. This request is made annually to fund the Williams family's commitment to the campaign. Brant made a motion which was seconded by Morris. The motion passed.

New Business

Dixon said the Ecclesiastical Arts committee has completed the project to have the baptismal font repaired in the nave along with installing a new silver bowl to use in the font. A silver cloth bag for storage of the bowl was also purchased. The total expenditure was \$3571.46 and the vestry's vote to approve the expense was unanimous.

In HR committee news, they are reviewing and revising the employee handbook. Two changes made so far are (1) nametags are not required for employees to wear while on campus and (2) the federal holiday, Juneteenth, has been adopted as a day the building will be closed and the staff will be off.

The Kanuga weekend participants will be using the book '52 Ways to Walk' and Dixon would like to offer each adult their own copy of the book at no charge. He requested that the books be paid for out of the Vestry Undesignated fund. Morris approved the expense of \$1020.00 and Salem seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Sr. Warden, Matthew Phillips, explained there may be a need for a task force to explore the future and continuing needs for the 1928 Skinner organ in the Nave.

In the Rector's Report, Dixon said Holy Week and Easter at St. Paul's were wonderful. He said the congregation felt engaged and participated in many of the spiritual growth offerings.

Sara Ardrey-Graves is on sabbatical and Nick VanHorn will be taking his sabbatical starting in June.

Tom McDowell will offer a Tower tour for the vestry on Sunday afternoon, time, and date TBD.

Dixon explained what happened with the sound system on Easter and offered some talking points for the vestry if they receive further complaints. Dixon said the sound system is being worked on yet will always be something leadership has to address. Problems with the sound in the nave can be found in vestry minutes going back to the 1970's. We are not the first to manage these challenges and won't be the last.

Dixon reminded everyone the May vestry meeting is scheduled for May 15.

In the Clergy Report, Nick said the ECM (Episcopal Church Men) dinners are going well and the mayor, Allen Joines will be the speaker on May 8th. Nick said EYC was ramping down and the St. Paul's scout troop at Christ Beloved Community is gearing up. Kids are signing up for the 2024 Summer Youth trip and the Rev. James Franklin and Youth intern and St. Paul's seminarian, Donnie Fragale, will be heading it up. Donnie Fragale will be leaving us soon to attend Yale Divinity school for a year.

Lucy thanked everyone for a smooth Holy week and Easter. She said the attendance numbers increased from last year. With Sara away, Lucy is managing all the scheduling of clergy leaders for all worship offerings. Because we will be missing some clergy this summer, the noon Holy Eucharist will retract to Monday-Thursday through August. Our neighbors at Augsburg Lutheran are under construction and we will be loaning them space occasionally over the next several months. There is a Rogation Day service planned for Wednesday, May 15 at 5:30 and everyone is invited to attend before the vestry meeting.

Sr. Warden, Matthew Phillips, said to the vestry that we need a new liaison for Love Literacy and please consider if this ministry interests you.

Jr. Warden, Morris Friedman, did not have anything additional to add to Dixon's earlier remarks about the pavers.

In Liaison reports, Salem asked about the Welcome Committee since she is the vestry liaison and Dixon explained we are attempting to resurrect this ministry and welcomed her future input and ideas.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.