

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting, Wednesday, November 20, 2024

The Rev. Dixon Kinser called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and gave a devotion. Those in attendance were Carol Davis, Matthew Phillips, Kathryn Vernon, Charlotte Broughton, Sheldon Moser, Salem Parham, Ralph Womble, Elizabeth Repetti, Keith Googe, Brant Snaveley, Morris Friedman, Julie Williams, the Rev. Nick VanHorn, the Rev. Lucy Strandlund, and Betsy Reiners.

Dixon asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented for the vestry meeting on October 23, 2024. Ralph Womble made a motion, and Kathryn Vernon seconded the motion. The motion passed.

St. Paul's treasurer, Julie Williams gave the financial report, and her remarks are included here:

The Finance Committee met on November 19, 2024.

Financial Highlights:

- *Pledges were behind by \$93k through October.*
 - *As of today, \$100k is already over for November and have caught up to budget*
- *Renewal Campaign*
 - *Expecting the last bill for the pavers soon and will begin repaying the church by Q1 2025*
- *Stewardship campaign is running well. Have received 2/3 of anticipated pledge cards and have raised \$2.1 Million*
- *Expense highlights:*
 - *Maintenance – over budget due to vestry approved roof repair*
 - *Deficit is over budget by the shortfall in pledges*
 - *3 payroll month is why personnel is high*
 - *Will even out by year end (or be ahead due to short- staffed situation)*

Financial Collars:

- *The financial collar calculation shows there is over 6 months (approx. 6.4 months) of operating expenses in reserves.*
 - *This means the Church is in the yellow light position*
 - *Once the capital campaign has repaid the church, we are anticipating there will be no level of financial distress, as there will be 8.5 months of operating expenses in reserves.*
 - *\$300k is expected to be repaid in 2025, when the rest of the estate gifts are received.*
- *Although we are in a surplus position, under the financial collars calculation the church is in a yellow light position, 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 losses and advises against any new financial commitment.*

Dixon reported on the Cheerful Giving/What If? Campaign.

In new business, Dixon reported the tower neon cross needs repair. After much discussion, it was decided to revisit this concern at January's vestry meeting.

Regarding a Weapons-Free Campus policy, Dixon and the vestry discussed what is needed for St. Paul's to adopt one of their own. Dixon asked for a motion to approve a policy stating St. Paul's is a weapons free campus. Elizabeth Repetti made the motion, and Morris Friedman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

In Dixon's rector's report, he announced the hiring of Master of Chorister and Schola. He is Dr. Robert Poovey and will start in January 2025.

The Associate rector search is ongoing, and the staff and clergy will be visiting with a candidate who has been helping with services at St. Paul's for some time. Her name is Erika Takacs, she lives in Winston-Salem and has been doing supply work for the diocese.

Dixon reminded the vestry the December meeting is on December 4 and for returning and new vestry members, the vestry retreat is on February 7 and 8, 2025 at Valle Crucis.

The Rev. Nick VanHorn reported the youth basketball season has begun and they have a good group of coaches and players. He is planning the summer youth trip and will officiate his final wedding next week after a busy fall wedding season. The Episcopal Church Men ministry is moving from monthly dinners to quarterly and will host Bishop Curry at the May dinner.

In her clergy report the Rev. Lucy Strandlund shared plans for Advent and Christmas liturgy and services.

In the Sr. Warden's report, Matthew Phillips said the vestry nominating committee will meet in December to discuss vestry candidates. Lee Bettis and Catherine Allen have agreed to join the committee.

Dixon adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm with pastoral and executive sessions to follow.