

St. John's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Minutes

In attendance: Father Jim Wheeler, Sharon Guinta, Bill Schwartz, Olive Grant, Terrence Green, Beth Ford, Danielle Sullivan, Kathi Bacchi, Sandra Clarke, Chris Mehan, Ann Mavor

Opening Prayers

Formation

- bible study on restructuring
- Exodus 18:13-27 handout, discussion questions

Information

Minutes of August 8th meeting

- Approved

Update on Interview with the Rev. Meg Finnerud by Father Jim, Sandra Clark and Chris Mehan

- interview on Sept. 11; Chris, Sandra, Father Jim & Ron Bacchi present
- found she was a viable candidate; interested in conducting a 2nd interview
 - 2nd interview with new questions and new interviewees
- still want to keep job posting open for the time
- job has been posted for 3-4 weeks
 - with the Diocese of Connecticut, General Theological Seminary postings, Yale Divinity School, a few national church listings, employment officers in New England
 - suggestion made to post in Long Island and neighboring dioceses
 - suggestion to circulate info among retired priests in the area who may be interested
- Father Jim to send Vestry Rev. Finnerud's resume
- discussion was had re concerns
- discussion re possibility of seeking a Deacon for an unpaid position
- Father Jim updated Vestry on status of our scheduled seminarian intern
- it was decided that by the first week in October, a 2nd interview of Rev. Finnerud would be conducted; job posting is to remain up until October 31st unless it is decided after the 2nd interview that we will be proceeding with Rev. Finnerud

Status Report on 275th Anniversary Plans by Olive Grant

- October 14th: High Tea
 - 1800 décor and costumes; music of era will be played; raffle
 - tickets for entry \$20
- November 4th:
 - oral readings of Revolutionary time period; lectors; archived letters
 - walk to cemetery with bagpiper
 - reception at St. Andrew's
 - 7:30pm artistic singers at St. John's
- November 23rd: Great Thanksgiving Dinner
 - co-chairing with Congregational Church
 - Kathi Bacchi-contact person
- December 9th: Gala
 - Mastrone performing again; was able to offer us a deal re lighting
 - Father Jim has been writing for sponsorships
 - Silent Auction: seeking items
 - \$60/ticket, \$100 per couple; proceeds for Inspirica, Liberation House, Neighbors Link, and Bon Samaritain

Short term v. Long-term Rental Income

- handout provided; report requested last meeting
- long term = ongoing rentals
- rentals are a significant piece of our income

Operations Report by Sharon Guinta

- Kitchen is now commercial
 - health inspector has issued a set of rules for us to stay up to code
 - rules to be posted in bulletin this week
 - classes to be held teaching requirements; \$175 per person
 - exterminator inspected kitchen: termites present
 - exterminator to report back with cost of services
 - concerns were expressed re the commercialized use of kitchen
 - if a kitchen rental affects parish use of the kitchen, it was requested that a discussion needs to be had
 - kitchen training: who will maintain
 - kitchen conditions discussed; suggestion to have non-latex gloved available
- Gutter/Roof work completed
 - Sandie and Dante looked at completed work
- Christmas Closet work completed
 - Sandra to recruit helpers to put items back into room
- Website
 - rolling out on Sept 17; Sean in close contact with Father Jim and Sharon on its progress
 - Sharon has received little response from people regarding ministry information for website

- instructions re photography have been posted on website
- Giving tab for tithing
 - additional charge; suggestion: make people explicitly aware of charge
 - another option: bank withdrawals (no charge)

Stewardship-Plans for Fall Pledge Appeal by Father Jim & Sharon Guinta

- meeting held on 9/7; Father Jim met with Jon Saunders re writing of letters
- discussion re aspects of campaign:
 - emphasize personal stories, spiritual reasons for giving
- goal to have all pledges in by 10/29
- theme: 275th anniversary, rich heritage, what is our future?
- Sharon has asked people to give witness talks; excerpts will be put in letters
- letters to be sent by end of September through Oct 29th
- ability to pledge online

Great Welcome Sunday by Jim Wheeler

- September 17th; pot luck brunch; information re food distributed during mass
- need for dishes: Father Jim to send separate newsletter
- website launch will be displayed on screen; demonstration

A New Approach to Multi-Language Joint Worship Services by Jim Wheeler

- Father Jim met with Father Eddie to discuss feedback from joint worship services
 - minimal attendance from other congregations
 - feelings that it is a St. John's service accommodating other languages
- Decided to instead do a prayer walk throughout the City in multiple languages that focuses on places in City where needs are intersecting
- Father Eddie to develop a committee of parishioners from each church
 - Danielle volunteered to be part of committee
- continuing the joint worship service for Pentecost

Update on Sean Jackson by Jim Wheeler

- name to be placed on masthead; currently on bulletin as "temporary position"
 - Executive committee in agreement
- Sean will continue working remotely
- concerns discussed; discussion re background of position

Treasurer's Report by Chris Mehan

- financials have not yet been received; will follow up via email

- on target with budget, but need to keep an eye out on certain line items

Discussion

Restructuring-Organizational Revamp by Terrence Green

- discussion cut shorter than originally intended; Terrence to email presentation and Vestry to provide feedback
- discussion re getting back on track with objectives learned from retreat
- need for 2 other liaisons; thoughts on who could fill those roles
- discussion re push back of restructuring: need to explain need for restructuring

Decision

N/A

Other Parish Business & Concerns

- request for discussion on role of Women's Guild
- request for update on Sunday School programs, meet with Maddie (within next two months)

Closing Prayers