

St. John's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting

Tuesday March 6, 2018

Minutes

In attendance: Father Jim, Father Key, Beth Ford, Danielle Sullivan, Aldrich Wright, Terrence Green, Chris Mehan, Bill Schwartz, Kathi Bacchi, Olive Grant, Melody Wagstaff, Ann Mavor, Sandra Clarke

Opening Prayer

Formation

- preparations for May 1st meeting with Bishop Douglas
- watched Bethany Ringdal's TEDx Talk "Insight for the New Reformation"
- handout: Episcopal Visitation Vestry Discussion Guide
- discussion re going out into the neighborhood where God has moved the neighborhood to make what is broken whole
 - suggestion re an Inspirica dinner on June 22nd, BBQ
 - walk around Harbor Point, Downtown
 - lunch to day laborers
 - pairs of two to go out and walk where they wish and then report experiences to Vestry
 - April 14th, 12PM-walks from Fairway; April 15th, 12PM-walks from Church to Downtown areas

Discussion

Canterbury Green Reevaluation and 10-year Ground Rent

- Executive Committee recommendation that we continue 10 or more years at the current appraised value of Canterbury Green
 - discussion by Vestry members who disagreed
- Chris Mehan to discuss with Peter Stroili
 - possibility of an unofficial estimate of appraised value
 - individual search re property value
- Discussion re whether contract requires an appraisal
 - Father Jim believes there is no such requirement
- Decision to be put off until April meeting

Revised Contract and Procurement Policy by Chris Mehan

- handout: Contracting and Procurement Policy
- Vestry to read/review and provide feedback
- Chris to email policy to Vestry as well

Re-forming Finance Committee

- Pieter Smit resigning from Finance Committee; other current members are John Stearns and Jewell Brain
- need an Investment Policy
- mapping out cash flow and capital maintenance for the next several years
- Finance Committee volunteers:
 - Aldrich, Melody
 - asking Jean Aranha and Jane Holt
- Aldrich addressed his prior request for a special meeting re this year's capital expenses
 - asked for a 30 minute meeting; to be chaired by Chris
 - invite Jane and Pieter Smit
 - Chris, Melody and Aldrich to determine date
- discussion re inviting other members of the church to join Finance Committee in the future
 - desired qualities: investment strategy, banking background

Future of St. Luke's Chapel, Ferguson building and parking lot

- located at Woodlawn and Pacific Streets; Inspirica Women's Shelter
- St. John's owns; leased to Inspirica (100 year lease)
 - Inspirica would now like to buy property
- discussed potential strategies to approach this news; beginning discussions
 - need for Finance Committee to address
 - issues re Gentrification
 - conversations with the Diocese
- proposal: 30 minute meeting after Sunday mass to discuss
 - invite present and past Vestry members
- Additional information needed
 - layout of property, size of building
 - value of property
 - lease agreement
 - zoning information

2018 Vestry Retreat

- ECCT Spring Training Event on April 7th (materials on retreat sent via email)
- Saint Birgitta retreat suggested
- Appreciative Inquiry retreat discussion by Fr. Key
 - interviews of congregation members, voices of community
 - need for discussion re strengths, address strengths with parish for themes to carry through to Fall during stewardship and the transition with Fr. Jim leaving
 - timeframe late summer early fall
- Saturday August 25th proposed for retreat

Meeting with Fr. Eddie Lopez and leaders of Iglesia Betania

- discussion re building community and support; Fr. Eddie had said that his congregation would like to merge
- March 18th, 2:30PM proposed

Information

Minutes of Feb. 6, 2018 Vestry meeting

- add "increase was approved" under Discussion re Father Jim
- motion to approve amended minutes-
 - approved; no opposition

Operations Report

- handout
- no new information; organized in spreadsheet
 - \$75,525 total
- on hold: wiring for cameras; priority is fire hazard materials
- discussion re Sharon taking a medical leave of absence; Terrence to take over operations piece in her absence

Fr. Jim Report on Holy Week

- handout re events on Holy Week
- Seder on Maundy Thursday evening
- Good Friday at noon, Contemporary Stations of the Cross
 - walk of St. John's block
 - symbolic stations re current issues (homelessness, immigration, women's issues, gun violence/school shootings, opioid addiction)

Fr. Sandy Report

- Education:
 - study of John by Roger Bullard on Sunday mornings
 - study of Luke Wednesday evenings
 - Psalms study on Tuesdays
- Visitations continuing
 - recruiting for Eucharistic ministers/visitors
 - localized and diocese training
- Attended Companions for Mission Conference for ECCT on March 3rd
- Golf League begins in April
 - need for RSVPs, payment required ahead of time until group is established
- newest ministry of St. John's began today-mission with UCONN Stamford
 - first outreach today with Olive and Sunny Stearns
 - table set up, treats, "Talk and Listen"

- met leader of Huskies in Christ, group of 25 who meet and
- read the Bible
- Roslyn and Henry Mainville involved as well
- May to get whole church involved, exam study bags
- more sessions beyond Tuesdays and Thursdays; possibly Wednesday nights

Treasurer Update

- Chris to follow up via email when he receives February numbers this week

Haiti Fundraising Dinner

- March 23rd at 7PM
- need for wine and appetizers
- let Melody know what you can provide

Decisions

Nunc Pro Tunc approval of extra contracts for electrical wiring and fire alarms

- need for approval from Vestry all Fire detection totals listed on Sharon's operations report (\$18,355)
- formalized at Executive Committee after Sharon's absence from February Vestry meeting
 - moved, seconded
 - Approved, no opposition
 -

Approve money from the Chili Cookoff to go to our Haiti partnership

- there was a verbal understanding, no formal approval
- asking for formal approval for \$450 for Haiti Partnership
 - moved, seconded,
 - Approved, no opposition

Other Parish Business and Concerns

- N/A

Closing Prayers