

St. John's Vestry Meeting
May 7, 2019, 7:00PM

In attendance: Fr. Sandy, Terrence Green, Kathi Bacchi, Roger Bullard, Bill Schwartz, Melody Wagstaff, Danielle Sullivan, Chris Mehan, Anne Mavor, Olive Grant, Sandra Clarke
-Lester Bilyou guest, for Information Presentation

Information Presentation by Lester Bilyou

- HCS Technology Group:
 - no longer utilizing company's services; currently seeking a replacement company for management of our anti-virus systems
 - are networks secured?
 - yes; Lester to confirm all computers have been updated w anti-virus
 - in the interim, Lester will take phone calls re IT until we find another company; we are taking proposals
- Security Camera Installation Update:
 - [redacted for privacy concerns]

Formation:

- Recap of Holy Currencies Chapters 5 & 6 by Bill Schwartz

Information:

Approval of Vestry Minutes

- change: Terrence & Kathi reviewed chapters 1 & 2 of Holy Currencies: overview (not currencies of relationship)
 - Motion to approve w change; seconded
 - Approved

PPIC Update by Terrence Green:

- Fr. Wilfredo let his diocese know officially that he was leaving; they told him that he needs to give 6 weeks notice; official start date will be June 16th or 23rd
- he is anxious to begin

Safe Church by Terrence Green and Fr. Sandy:

- Fr Sandy informed us that there is going to be an easier way to get safe church rolled out to congregation, which involves showing a safe church video at coffee hour; will be shown 4x a year; info session
- individuals, such as the Vestry/Ushers etc. who need further training, will need to participate in a one day training
 - ie. those with money, those who work with kids, those who work with seniors

- Trainings are offered by diocese at certain times of the year; individuals would need to sign up in advance
- Fr. Sandy reiterated that safe church means: exposing individuals to open their eyes so you can make sure that everyone here, elders, youth, etc. have a safe place to be; being proactive rather than reactive
- re Betania & Epiphany and whether it applies to them:
 - it should apply, but not by our control; their Vestry/leadership needs to initiate;
- when will policy be implemented for child care volunteers?
 - teens not allowed unless they go thru full safe church training
 - will have to check age requirements
 - Anne would like Mattie to pull a list of door people who are safe church trained
 - no upper age cut off; individuals just need safe church training

Treasurer's Report by Chris Mehan:

- on average we are flat;
- undesignated endowment income
- over budget on pledges;
- where we are hurting: budget for use of facilities
 - thinks a tenant is a couple months behind on rent; contract issue
 - other tenant may have fallen behind
- Saved money on not paying rector salary;
 - consider a thank you to Fr Eddy, Ives and Sandy
- Vestry program over budget: \$6,200; fellowship over \$1,000
 - farewell event for Fr. Jim: budget over \$2,500
 - issue with amount of catering costs
 - to follow up with Jane and Jackie re invoices
 - overage on fellowship
- bill total for quarter: gas/electric \$41,000 over budget (issues with back up burners)
 - will offset gain with Fr Jim's salary
- Chris to follow up via email w spreadsheet
- Question regarding party rentals:
 - are we denying all inquiries?
 - new policy: only refusing after hours parties
 - if Dante is on staff, with no overtime, party is OK

Coffee Hour Parish Presentation:

- Vestry update
- tentatively June 16th, update + introduction of Wilfredo

Personnel Discussion:

- Executive session
 - motion for Vestry to go into Executive Session
 - moved, seconded; Approved

--Vestry entered into Executive Session for Personnel Discussion--

- motion for Vestry to go back into regular session
 - moved, seconded; Approved

Discussion

Rectory Work:

- Fr. Wilfredo and wife will be residing in their co-op; Rectory now available
- now looking at an Aug 1st timeline for work that needs to be done; focus on necessities (especially interior work)
- renting rectory?
 - if so, we should consider families who may have children starting school in September
- Terrence to send around proposals for work that we can start getting done now
 - roof; landscapers; tree work on possible dead trees

Communications and Welcoming Plan for Father Wilfredo:

- seeking volunteers to head;
- reminder that this is a PPIC position with the potential for being a Rector in the future, at that point bishop would come in and seat him
 - suggest we do a nice coffee hour/happy hour
- women's group to handle welcome/father's day because men are handling mother's day
- Terrence suggested that he meet the staff prior to welcome
- re new administrator position: Wilfredo would like to have some time with working with Jane first; Jane has drafted a job posting for administrative position

Reflection of Easter by Members of the Vestry:

- good feedback;
- official numbers: Palm Sunday: 125, Maundy Thursday services: 90; Good Friday: 80; Holy Saturday 90; Easter at 10:15AM: 192;
- lots of thought and preparation put into place; clear and obvious that a lot of work was put into it
- template program can be re-used;
- Holy Saturday thoughts with all the churches in Stamford present: disappointed we didn't see more individuals;
- not great children attendance; suggestion that we could have incorporated children more
 - suggestion to bring out the "faces" artwork by the children a few years ago

Discussion re health issues of a parishioner:

- [redacted for privacy concerns]

Decision

Landscaping for Rectory/Church:

- have been taking proposals; historically, we have had a landscaper who takes care of rectory & cemetery; individual was given that role two rectors ago
- issue: he's not licensed, so we own any issue that may occur, we can't own that any longer
- decision to get proposals and give landscaper until July 31st; he has also been invited to bid on the job if he's licensed
- Olive informed Vestry that there is a line on the back of the Rectory's property that borders a wildlife sanctuary; any new landscaper needs to be aware

Other Parish Business and Concerns

Olive Grant's Community Pathway Report:

- hand out provided;
- March 16th: introduction re liaison position; two biannual meetings: one in May, one in the Fall
- Hospitality committee suggestions; men's breakfast inquiry, when it can be started up again, Mother's Day breakfast suggested
- Newcomer's ministry: disappointment in attendance of events; Olive suggested new method
- Outreach: Inspirica dinners, Homes for the Brave
- Haiti: school & clinic progressing; visit not possible due to political unrest; successful fundraiser
- Women's Group: growing in membership, events;
- Easter basket success, gratitude for baskets and delivery
- Women's conference update
- United Thank Offering Boxes: great response this year

Check:

- \$5,000 for mission and ministry for UCONN Stamford, from the Episcopal Church, national church
- need to create an account within our own system to house the check
- asking for permission to set up account that will be drawn on by Fr. Sandy and Rev. Mark Lingle
- new financial line item; needs to be able to flow over because UCONN Academic year starts August / September
- Motion: to set up a new mission and ministry account for UCONN Stamford campus ministry, with the money deposited from the donation from Episcopal Church, to be drawn upon by Fr. Sandy and Rev Mark Lingle;
 - Seconded;
 - Further Discussion:

- Chris to follow up with Jane with setting up account and processes
 - UCONN not providing space for ministry at this time
- All in favor, no opposition, no abstention: Approved

Prayer Garden by Olive:

- Olive would like to start working on a prayer garden as soon as possible; seeking financial help to start out, \$500
- vegetable garden comes from outreach budget; this would come from somewhere else
- Olive working on plan with Fr. Sandy, Dante and others; will circulate when finalized
- total would be under \$1,000; would like to start with \$500 to start with process
 - to be set up near St. Francis statue, will clean up area
- Chris to figure out where money would come from; what budget
- Motion: \$500 to start construction of a prayer garden in St. Francis area
 - Seconded
 - Further Discussion:
 - Chris would like to see some plans and will figure out what line item money will be coming from
 - All in favor, no opposition, no abstention: Approved

Hospitality:

- on Sunday, hospitality chair told Terrence that she would be stepping down
 - Terrence asked for written confirmation; email did not expressly resign, but asked for a conversation
- Coffee Hours:
 - next Sunday, Mother's Day, is covered;
 - suggestion that we keep it simple and if others state concerns then revive it
 - discussion re importance of our coffee hour continuing and reinforcing sign up

Closing Prayers

Next Meeting: June 4, 2019