

GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting Tuesday, October 8, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

In-Person: Fr. Joe Hudson, Bob Sawyer, Don McKelvy, Ruth Bruno, Libby Chinman, Ed Silva, Megarie van Sickel, Judith Jarvis

Via ZOOM: Elaine Hedrick, Christine Pizer **Absent:** Carole LaBate, Lynne Altimier

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order by Bob Sawyer at 6:30 p.m.

Father Joe opened the meeting with a moment of silence and a prayer.

ACTION ITEMS/MOTIONS:

- a. A change was made in the September minutes (Discussion Item e, Stewardship Annual Campaign) to read “the campaign will end on Gratitude Sunday, November 17.” Megarie van Sickel moved to approve the Clerk’s minutes as amended. Don McKelvy seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- b. Libby Chinman moved to accept the Treasurer’s reports for September, 2024. Ruth Bruno seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
- c. Don McKelvy moved to approve the purchase and installation of programmable thermostat controls (non-wifi) from TriCounty Air Conditioning and Heating in an amount not to exceed \$3,500.00. Ed Silva seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- d. Bob Sawyer moved to purchase new hymnals and BCPs for an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Don McKelvy seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- e. The motion to support Red Cross and/or Episcopal national church efforts in areas affected by Helene was tabled for further discussion to give the Outreach Committee time to research the addition of Hurricane Milton to the motion and the options available for donations.

PAUSE FOR PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVING - Megarie van Sickel

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Capital Campaign Update - Bob Sawyer

Bob pointed out that the spreadsheet through September shows around \$149,000 received for the first half of the three-year pledge period. Bob feels we are doing wonderfully well from a revenue standpoint. Bob also pointed out and explained a few other items on the spreadsheet. One of which was that we received a payment of over \$183,000 from Church insurance. Under "Loan Proceeds" Bob shows over \$103,000 to be taken out. Our normal loan payment to the Diocese would be \$3,897. Bob proposed adding an additional \$100,000 as he suggests we pay down our loan by \$100,000 at this time. However, the Finance Committee feels strongly that the debt should be entirely paid off. A third option would be to put the \$100,000 back into the Investment Account from which that amount had originally been "borrowed". Discussion followed on the options. Bob added that there is plenty of money available and finished by saying that he feels it is just a matter of how we want to manage our funds, but that we should do whatever we're going to do by the end of the year. Megarie van Sickle then moved that we pay \$100,000 on the loan now and revisit the question in December. Ed Silva seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Revisioning - Fr. Joe:

Fr. Joe believes we are about done. He was fairly sure that the Colonial Roofing crew finished up the dormers on Monday. The issue of the door locks still needs to be resolved. Bob Sawyer said that John Buntel was going to follow up to try to get a reasonable date to resolve the issue and, if none is forthcoming, existing keys to the front door will be cut and distributed.

c. Flood control systems - Bob Sawyer:

Bob said that they have been focusing on various alternatives to make the church doors more watertight. We are currently looking at flex seal tape as a solution to the problem. The question is how well this will really work. We learned that the Manatee school system did an extensive study on alternatives and decided to use this tape system. Enough tape for one door has been ordered and will be tested.

d. Annual Fund Campaign - Bob Sawyer:

There was a stewardship meeting this morning. The committee is continuing to pull the campaign together. Fr. Joe is starting video chats that will focus on the campaign. There will also be focus on ministries and recognizing the work that goes on in the church.

e. **Annual Budget - Bob Sawyer:**

Bob said that Lynne is working very hard to pull all of the numbers together, and he reminded the vestry that it is important to let Lynne know if any vestry member foresees needing more money for the coming year than was allocated for this year. This is necessary in order to give the Budgeting Committee a reasonable estimate of how much money will be required from the congregation for operations in the coming year. By November the Vestry will be presented with a draft budget. By December the Finance Committee will expect to know what funds will be received from the Annual Fund Campaign. The budget will then be finalized and presented to the Vestry as recommended by the Finance Committee for a vote in January.

f. **Nominating Committee - Fr. Joe:**

The Vestry members whose terms are scheduled to expire are Elaine Hedrick, Carole LaBate, and Don McKelvy. The nominating committee will consist of these three as well as the Sr. Warden and Fr. Joe. Fr. Joe said that he has a few names of people with whom he wants to meet. If anyone has thoughts of people that they would like to recommend, they are asked please to share those names with the Nominating Committee. Fr. Joe emphasized that we are in transition as to the Commissions. He felt that perhaps some of those leaving may be interested in heading up the committees they are currently in charge of. He especially expressed kudos to Don McKelvy for the amazing job he has done during this challenging past few years..

Around the Table: Shout Outs, Questions, Comments, Reminders

Closing: Prayed the Lord's Prayer in a circle

Meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Jarvis, Clerk of the Vestry