

GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting Tuesday, December 10, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

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

Via ZOOM: Elaine Hedrick, Carole LaBate **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. Ed Silva moved to approve the Clerk's minutes from November 12, 2024. Ruth Bruno seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- b. Megarie van Sickel moved to accept the Treasurer's reports for November, 2024. Christine Pizer seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- c. Fr. Joe presented a letter declaring his housing allowance for 2025. Carole LaBate moved to accept the housing allowance as presented. Ruth Bruno seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
- d. Megarie van Sickel moved to approve the purchase of 140 to 160 new chairs for the meeting rooms with money from the Capital Campaign in an amount not to exceed \$7,000. Don McKelvy seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- e. Carole LaBate moved to accept the decision of the endowment committee to take half of the income from the endowment fund for 2024 in an amount up to \$5,000 and to dedicate that amount to the Outreach Commission for use in 2025 in some good manner to be approved by the Vestry. Libby Chinman seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

PAUSE FOR PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVING - Libby Chinman

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. **Capital Campaign Update - Bob Sawyer**

Bob pointed out that the Capital Campaign numbers sheet is somewhat confusing. Money that has come in consists of some insurance money, some donations, the Diocesan loan proceeds, and money borrowed from the investment account. The difference between revenues and expenses shows a difference of a little over \$413,000. Bob explained that this is not a true difference because, e.g., the Diocesan loan item shows an amount received that is no longer there. Bob finished by saying that the Campaign is going well. We have received \$189,000 which is a little more than half of the amount pledged.

b. **Annual Fund Campaign - Lynne Altimier**

Lynne stated that to date 110 pledges have been received for a total of \$314,000. She added that 23 households still have not sent in pledges but that they anticipate receiving these pledges. Fr. Joe added that letters will go out to these households. He feels that the Capital Fund Campaign has somewhat affected donations. Bob Sawyer pointed out that we are not at the level of pledges that had been hoped for, so there is a sizable deficit in the budget right now but that he anticipates that the final amount will be closer to the amount aimed for. Finally, the Finance Committee is not yet ready to present a budget; there remains some tweaking to do. Bob said that the Finance Committee will present an approved budget to the Vestry before January 7, 2025.

c. **Annual Budget - Bob Sawyer**

Bob Sawyer pointed out that the budget is not yet in final form. Right now we have revenues of \$419,000 versus anticipated expenses of \$471,000 leaving a \$52,000 deficit. While there is also currently a \$50,000 surplus this year, this may not necessarily be there by the end of the year. Last month we had talked about putting that surplus aside for Fr. Joes's sabbatical in 2026. However, because of the projected shortfall, we might want to keep that surplus and start accruing money towards the sabbatical throughout the year. In further discussion on the budget, Bob pointed out that cash on hand as of today is \$612,000; however, only \$204,000 of that amount is free money. The Financial Committee strongly wants to pay off the balance of the Diocesan loan which is about \$120,000. Paying the loan off now would leave us with only approximately \$80,000 in free money. Bob also mentioned that initially we had borrowed \$100,000 from the investment account and feels that this amount should be paid back. He recommends continuing to look at these considerations and to make some decisions either on January 7 when the budget is finalized and presented to the Vestry for a vote or later in 2025. On a hopeful note, Bob reminded the Vestry that the last two years began with a deficit budget but ended with a surplus.

d. **Nominating Committee** - Fr. Joe

As usual there are three Vestry members leaving the group in January. Fr. Joe reported three nominees: Pat McNickle, Paul Altimier, and Barbara Davis. Because Paul is currently working, Fr. Joe foresees lightening the Jr. Warden's responsibilities with the probability of John Buntel being the building coordinator and Bob Clark being the grounds coordinator. Bob Sawyer also mentioned that Michael Kitt will be part of that team and involved with safety issues.

e. **Newcomers' Reception** - Fr. Joe

Our last Newcomer's Reception was last April, and Fr. Joe feels that it is past time for another considering the number of new congregants we have. He feels that this should occur early next year before our "Northern Lights" leave. With Lent beginning the first Sunday of March, January or February was mentioned as the optimum time.

f. **"Table for 8, please!"** - Bob Sawyer

A member of Bob's flock asked him to bring up to the Vestry the idea of creating tables for eight in the Parish Hall to make more room for large groups to gather after service. After a bit of discussion, the general consensus was that eight is too many to allow for comfortable conversations and that we should leave it as is.

Bob's recommendation: A member of Bob's flock asked him to bring up to the Vestry the idea of buying round tables for eight in the Parish Hall to make room for larger groups to gather after service. After a bit of discussion, the general consensus was that tables for eight would take up too much room and are too large to allow for comfortable conversations and that we should leave it as is.

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

Closing: Prayed the Lord's Prayer in a circle

Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Jarvis, Clerk of the Vestry