

St. Anne's Vestry Meeting Minutes

8/21/2022

Approved 9-18-22

This meeting was conducted in a hybrid format, both in-person and on Zoom.

Present in person: Darryl Hammill, Senior Warden; Debbie Walker, Junior Warden; Ginny Wilder, Rector; Eric Ekstrand; Stan Meiburg ; Jason Wilkinson;

Present via Zoom: Grace Phillips, Bob Hoover, Treasurer; Susan Gies Conley, Clerk; Liza Baron, parishioner

Absent: Ray Leonard; Carmen Caruth; Donna Williams

1. Ginny opened with prayer
2. **Financial Report (see reports provided)**
 - a. Bob reported that overall, we are doing well with pledge income over expenses. It's especially wonderful that we are current with pledges in July, when folks tend to run behind in pledge payments given vacations. There were overages for the Rector's professional development, which are just a matter of timing as they happen infrequently through the year. Office expenses are mostly communication, tech, and website expenses that weren't budgeted for or were budgeted in a different area. Some insurance costs have changed as well causing an overage in that category. The utility bills have been a bit over for the past few months, alternating water, gas, and electricity at different times. The overage in buildings and grounds is accounted to security services. We still experience the sales tax reimbursement timing issue as we are about to submit for a refund. This is the first month of the year in which we have spent more than we have received in revenue.
3. Update on Audit
 - a. Bob reported that almost all of the sections of the audit have been completed. They are running into the problem of Stuart being out of town for a while. He'll be back in town this week and expects to have them done by the end of Friday this week. The other parts of the letters are drafted for the Audit Committee to look at now.
4. Preparing for the 2023 budget
 - a. Bob has been putting together the next budget, especially the timing of expenditures so we aren't using a flat line for the year but also considering when one-time expenses are predictable so we can better assess cash flow. Ginny asked for a form for the committee chairs so they can submit their budget needs for next year. It will include the year to date so they can
5. Updating Reimbursement policy
 - a. A discussion about reimbursement policies took place. Maria at the Diocese has advised us on a range of situations that we should address. Susan and Bob will work on composing the policy for the Vestry's future consideration. At this point, Bob left the meeting as he is on vacation with his family.
6. Check in and Discussion of the article, "[A Tale of Two Churches](#)"
 - a. A lively and productive discussion followed.

Information/discussion/action

7. Update on Vestry Candidates

- a. Ginny reminded us that our current bylaws call for 2 people per vacancy for Vestry. We want to change our bylaws to say one per vacancy at the upcoming parish meeting before we vote on the next Vestry. She has heard from enough people that we might have enough of a slate according to our current bylaws! We would prefer not to have to take names from the floor.
- b. We have Bob Paling, Corinne Groves, and Alvie Dove-Ali who have confirmed that they will run. Three others might run.
- c. Eric discussed having 4 people running for 3 seats to preserve some element of choice. Debbie was concerned about having one person who is not selected and how that might make them feel. The group discussed different configurations of the number standing and the process.
- d. Ginny will let us know if we get any more people committed to standing this week.

8. Committee Updates

- a. A number of written committee updates are included as an addendum to the minutes. Thanks to all of the committee chairs who prepared their reports!
- b. Darryl will write up stewardship's notes. The Stewardship Dinner might be on October 19th.

9. Bylaws to be voted on at Annual Meeting

- a. We've already talked about the number of people standing for Vestry.
- b. The next topic is improving electronic voting. The diocese has a policy in place that we can use very easily. Because it affects the Annual Meeting we can't implement it at the meeting on which it's voted upon. It will need a period of discussion on the Diocesan level before it can be finalized. We tried to get this done before but the Diocese hadn't covered that topic yet.

10. Annual Meeting- starting time??

- a. Ginny: Right now the plan is to have worship, a meal, and then the meeting. If we do that, she would like that service to start at 10 am to accommodate all of these activities and not have the lunch start too late and the meeting run very long into the afternoon.
- b. We may try to have the meeting in the Nave instead of the Parish Hall because it's all set up for cameras and mics. We could do a better Zoom Webinar format from the Nave and allow those who can't be there in person to speak
- c. Reports will be from Darryl, Debbie, Bob, and any committee chairs who wish to report. The reports should be written and the Wardens should also be prepared to speak.
- d. The vote on the bylaws will be held at the beginning of the meeting, to be followed by the Vestry election so votes can be counted during the rest of the meeting.

11. Committee Co-Chair Retreat

- a. Ginny has invited the committee co-chairs to a retreat on a Wednesday. One topic of discussion is the practice of handing off co-chairing after a maximum of 3 years as chair. The group will also discuss budgets.
- b. We will have the ministry fair at the Stewardship Dinner.
- c. Ginny will also walk the chairs through sections of the new website that they might better use to communicate about their ministries going forward.

12. Grand Piano Proposal

- a. Ginny: David Pegg has obtained a proposal for repair of the Steinway Grand Piano in the Nave, which was provided to the Vestry ahead of the meeting. The copper bass strings

have an expected lifespan of 30 years, and ours date to the 1960's. The piano tech provided a letter stating that the condition of the strings and dampers affects the overall tone.

- b. Debbie moved and Jason seconded a motion to submit this request for funding to the Moore Fund Committee. The motion was approved by consensus.**
 - c. Eric said that it's really a matter of regular maintenance. The piano technician is highly regarded and has worked on this piano before.
- 13. Replacing Parking Lot sign
 - a. Ginny stated that we can replace the parking lot sign or not. Buildings and grounds would have to look into costs. Debbie asked how many people actually see it. In 2-3 years there will be more people passing by with the increased development in the neighborhood. It can be considered a Widening the Welcome activity.
 - b. It was discussed that in a few years we'll have to reconsider doing all the signs and we can wait for that.
- 14. Approval of June minutes
 - a. Clerk did not hear a discussion of videos for the new website, item 14 on the agenda. Should the item be removed from the final minutes? Yes, it should be removed
 - b. Debbie had some changes to suggest: Midyear budget update: 3rd bullet categories in question and no categories: take out that bullet. Rephrase the motion about budget line items.
 - c. The clerk will provide the revised minutes to the Vestry.
 - d. Darryl moved that we accept the minutes as amended following discussion. Debbie seconded the motion. The motion was passed by consensus.**
- 15. Security Update
 - a. Ginny reported that we have security cameras around the building and alarms on several doors. Several volunteers have been specially trained on using the system. Ginny even "tested" the system by surprise and we know that it works! The entire building is not armed because we have other groups coming in and out and they don't need to be responsible for securing the offices.
- 16. Darryl added a report of the in-person to virtual ratio of service participants.
- 17. Looking Ahead
 - a. Bishop Sam's visit- Sunday, September 18th- he will want to meet with the Vestry after church. This will be our September Vestry meeting. Please make every effort to be present in person to meet the Bishop.
 - b. Annual Parish Meeting- Sunday, September 25th- all Vestry Members should be present. The meeting will be in person only with a webinar link to Zoom for those who want to watch from home.
 - c. Ginny will be away on vacation from September 27th- October 11th
 - d. Vestry Retreat is October 21-23rd at Valle Crucis Conference Center, at which we will onboard our new Vestry members. Rev. Pat Grace will facilitate. More details to come.
- 18. Closing prayer

ADDENDUM

COMMITTEE REPORTS – AUGUST 2022

Christian Formation Committee

The Christian Formation Committee met on Thursday, July 21 st via Zoom to plan our upcoming program year offerings.

Below are the classes and programs that will be offered at St. Anne's in the 2022-2023 program year.

- Children's formation- continuing to use the Whirl Curriculum. Having 10
- volunteer teachers will allow us to have 2 classrooms, Prek-1 and 2-4 (we don't
- have any 5th graders right now).
- Youth Group (6th -12th) will use the Collaborate Bible Study (spelled this way
- intentionally) from Sparkhouse. Rebecca Gordon is our intern from WF Divinity
- and her primary responsibility will be to teach our youth group and gather them
- together for formation and fellowship. Gail Boaz has also agreed to assist
- Rebecca in teaching/leading this class.
- Women of the Bible Study- October 2,9,16,23,30- to be led by Alvie
- Martha Honaker- November 6, 13, 20
- ADVENT- TBD
- January- The Church Cracked Open- Stephanie Spellers
- February- Whole Hearted Faith- Rachel Held Evans
- Outreach Lenten Series Feb 26-April 2
- 90-Day Bible Study Post Easter- July 16/ Big Chill
- Good Friday Stations of the Cross with Brook Davis
- Advent Eucharist Around the Table
- January 10/11- Feb. 14/15 The Color of Compromise
- Fingerprinting the Gospel- Lent
- Future- intergenerational VBS In the Evening

Bread and Blessings Committee. Carolyn wanted Vestry to know Bread and Blessings will be meeting after the service on August 28th to plan for the Bishop's Reception in September.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee took the summer off, but they still provided 2 meals for the Sunnyside Freedom School. On August 14, Kristopher Norris from the Flourish Program preached at St. Anne's. The Outreach Committee will be helping with 2 meals for his organization, on October 10 and November 7. The next Outreach Committee meeting is on September 11.

Stewardship Committee

The stewardship dinner will be on October 19 and gathering will be on November 6. The goal of the stewardship dinner is to offer concrete ways for folks to discern how to share their skills, gifts, and interest at St. Anne's. We want to focus the stewardship letter on "Emerging Transformed" from the pandemic as a congregation.

We have a number of ideas about the dinner but need to ask Bread and Blessings if they would be willing to help. Also would like some portion of the dinner provided by everyone coming to the dinner (potluck?).

More details were discussed about conversations around the tables between the liturgy. Similar to some other liturgical dinners we have had. Would like to combine the ministry fair with this dinner, making the offering of service a more integral part of the stewardship conversation.