

Minutes
St. Paul's Vestry
September 27, 2022

Vestry Members Present:

Rev. Mary, Robert North, Chrissy Aull, Laura Bittinger, Sharon Burak, Diane Freestate, Mark Freestate, Elsie Gerdom, Alan Griffith, Carol Lorditch, and Julia Eaton remote via phone.

Vestry Members Absent: Charlie Ackermann, Catherine Kirchner

Meeting called to order by Rev. Mary.

Carol Lorditch, opening prayer.

Minutes of the August 27, 2022 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

Report of Rector- Rev. Mary

Lectio Divina: Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The first reading focused on a word or phrase that stood out to listeners.

2nd reading: Thought or idea that stood out during the reading.

Final 3rd reading dealt with the question..what might God be inviting me to do?

Each question encouraged great conversation among all Vestry participants.

Worship Updates and Upcoming Dates:

- Common Cup. Happily the use of the Common Cup for Holy Communion appears to be well received and is succeeding. There is a shortage of lay ministers to administer the wine during communion. We will be offering training to the volunteers willing to assist Eucharistic Ministers.
- Deborah Barton has agreed to be a new Eucharistic Minister, a spiritual person eligible to help with sermons.
- 10/8/22 Prayer Breakfast, United Methodist Church, 9-11 am. Vestry members are encouraged to attend if available.
- 10/9/22 Blessing of the Animals. There will be an outside service weather permitting. Please bring your own chair and have your pet on a leash or in a cage.
- 10/29/22, 6 pm **All Hallows Eve Service**. This service will include "spooky" organ music provided by Julia Morris-Myers as well as stories about Ezekiel and the the Dry Bones, the Witch of Endor and the War in Heaven. Refreshments to follow.
- Safe Church/Safe Communities. Chrissy Aull appreciates the Vestry's positive response to the mandatory training course being offered on the Praesidium

Academy website. The majority of members that have started the online course seem to be doing it without and any problems.

- Currently, training is being done with compensated staff and is moving along well. Youth Leaders and Youth Programs will be the next to go through the online curriculum.
- Bob North thought the classes were interesting, providing good information and easy to follow. He suggested the mandatory Background Check was also easy to complete.
 - DOE will get all of the information and if there is a problem Rev. Mary will be made aware of the issue and an appropriate decision will be made regarding the problem.
- Vestry Retreat, re-schedule date to be determined later. Considering March 2023 following the election of new Vestry representatives.
- Article “Vestry Members as Leaders Who are Spiritual” if any Vestry members would like to add additional actions presented in the article please notify Bob North.
- Mutual Ministry Review, this is done through DOE. It involves questions for Vestry members including how members work together. We do have to pay for this service.
- Coffee Hour. The donation from an anonymous donor has not been received.

Report of the Senior Warden-Bob North.

- Vestry Safe Church/Safe Communities training is progressing smoothly.
- Make sure that you complete the Background Check.
- Completion by the end of September 2022.

Report of the Junior Warden- Charlie Ackermann

- The new Safety Fence has been installed around the parking lot storm water ponds.
- Donaldson Hall refrigerator has been repaired.
- Johnson Control completed the HVAC computer tie-in. Now all thermostats can be adjusted from the business office.
- Two Dogwood trees in front of the Church were removed this past week (prior to 9/27/22 meeting). They were dying due to borers in addition to outgrowing their living space. They were also damaging our brick walkway.
- The gutter repair project was completed.
- The annual Elevator inspection completed.
- The annual Range Hood fire system inspection completed.

- The Structural Engineer completed his survey of the Rectory's brick foundation water penetration issues. We are now moving forward with finalizing the contractor list and the "Request for Proposal" letter which will include all of the specification for the repair project.

Report of the Treasurer- Diane Freestate

- Wye River Upper School Parking Lot Lease. The lease for the use of a portion of our parking lot will be coming up for renewal in late 2023. We are in the process of preparing the new lease which will probably include a small increase in the rental. Rates have been constant for the past two consecutive five year leases.
- Diocese has issued a request for our 2023 Apportionment. The apportionment is based on the 2021 operating income of \$348,114 which was reported in the 2022 Parochial Report. The total amount requested based on this income is \$44,995.61. This is actually a decrease from the previous year and will be paid in monthly installment payments of \$3749.61. We have paid our apportionment in full for the last several years.
 - Vestry must vote and approve the Apportionment.
 - Mark Freestate made a motion to accept Apportionment, 2nd by Elsie Gerdom.
 - The Vestry approved the Apportionment unanimously; Bob North signed the paperwork. Apportionment will be mailed, emailed and finally delivered in person.
- Endowment funds continue to be hurt by the stock market challenges. As of August 31, 2022 we have lost a total of \$228,850.47 or 19%. This loss will definitely impact our draw/budget for 2023.
- Pledges are very close to budget; updated pledge statements will be sent to parishioners later this fall. Non-pledged gifts are under budget.
- Building Fund is performing well and is keeping up with necessary expenses. Additional funds have come from an excess from last year's building funds. We will be looking at a large investment in the Rectory in the coming year. We are considering doing a separate fundraiser for this project.

Old Business: No further Old Business

New Business:

- Sabbatical: Rev Mary will be taking a sabbatical in early October 2023; time tbd.
 - \$2500 sabbatical payment.
 - Paul Winters is being considered to minister during Rev Mary's absence.
 - Need to discuss how/what to compensate a substitute during this period. The duties will entail more than just Sunday services; sick visits and administrative tasks just to mention a few additional duties.

Next Vestry Meeting: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 Opening Prayer: Chrissy Aull

Submitted: Carol J Lorditch, Registrar