

St. John's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
Sunday, April 28, 2019

Present: J. Beattie, H. Brown, D. Campbell, C. Dubow, H. Flor, B. Futh, D. Gillespie, S. McFeely, K. Whitmore, M.B. Witt

Absent: R. Bent, L. Littlefield

Also present: C. and M. Smith

Bishop Whitmore opened the meeting with a prayer.

Bishop's Report:

Bishop Whitmore recommended using alternative candles for the Great Vigil with plastic wax catchers.

He announced that he will be away for the last two weeks in June.

He said that he intends to remain at St. John's until the end of September to guide us through the search process, and that we will need to work out a suitable compensation arrangement, given the constraints of his pension plan. He stated that we need to develop a profile and determine a plan for the future. He wants to begin work on a profile at the May Vestry meeting.

Wardens' Report:

Stewardship remains a critical issue for the parish. The parish is currently operating at a substantial and unsustainable deficit, and the parish has lost many substantial contributors who have not been replaced. The current budget and giving levels will not support a full-time priest.

Mr. Gillespie indicated that the By Laws are in need of updating and agreed to look into this.

Old Business:

Bishop Whitmore suggested that each member of the Vestry should be responsible for acting as a Vestry liaison for particular areas of parish life. The purpose is both to provide information for the Vestry and to keep the wider parish informed as to Vestry matters.

Mr. Dubow Ms. Flor, and Mrs. Witt volunteered to act as the liaisons for Stewardship.

In that regard, Ms. Witt mentioned attended a meeting in Meriden and came back with ideas for organizing Stewardship efforts at St. John's a description of an organizational plan. The concept studied in Meriden is built on SWEEP: Service (Outreach); Worship, Education, Evangelism, Pastoral Care, and Stewardship, which includes all things dealing with money.

Service includes: St. Elizabeth's Guild, Food Bank, Community activities, Mission.

Worship includes: Liturgy, Altar Guild, Lectors, Chalicers, Music, Greeters, all extra services such as Evensong.

Education includes: Monday Group.

Evangelism includes: welcoming newcomers, making them part of the parish family, giving them a meaningful job; some events.

Pastoral Care includes: Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Pot Luck Dinners, Hospitality, Fellowship.

New Business:

The Mr. Littlefield volunteered his son to help to update the web site. Importance of the website was recognized, because the vast majority of people who come for the first time come because of contact with the web site. Mr. Dubow will also volunteered to help with this.

It was suggested that we attempt to change the image of St. John's in Washington to make the local town people more welcome.

The Minutes of the March meeting were accepted.

The Financial statements were reviewed and questions answered.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Beattie, Clerk of the Vestry