

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
27 October 2015
Final – Approved on 11.17.2015

In Attendance: Todd Balfourt, John Funston, Sally Hastings, Lenore Hubbard, Al Krueger, Jim Menendez, Nick Pasken, Sue Riddell, Harriet Stone, Father Todd, Charlie Lippincott, Trina Perna

Note: Vestry in attendance constitutes a quorum with nine (9) voting members.

Absent: Pam Lanier, Tom Morris, Peter Pignataro, Father Steve, Melissa Lewis, and David Earle

Opening Reflections and Prayer, Father Todd: Hebrews, 11:32-12:3

Today's reading was selected with an eye towards the Celebration of All Saints (this Sunday). Citing trials endured by Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, the vestry was encouraged to persevere "in the race marked out for us." Father Todd encouraged all to keep faith and not loose hope as we cope with the trials in our lives.

22 September 2015 Minutes (version v.2.1) – Motion made and passed by all present to accept the minutes as written.

Committee Reports:

Lenore Hubbard reported on New Members - written report provided prior to meeting. Eleven (11) new members attended reception, held in August at Fr. Ian's home. Reception was a nice, informal way for folks to share their stories of what brought them to St. Mary's. Fr. Todd will soon be baptizing a baby whose parents attended the August reception. October "Meet & Greet" resulted in four (4) new members. This fall's Alpha class also includes several new members.

Parish Administrator's Report, Melissa Lewis: Absent. Written report provided prior to meeting.

People's Warden's Report, Nick Pasken: Verbal report given at meeting. In reference to current Alpha class, Nick noted it is touching to hear people's faith stories. A recent visitor to St. Mary's recently asked, "What's the catch?" And, commented that it was very refreshing that St. Mary's message is all about love, rather than sin or what people are doing wrong (as had been the case at their previous church).

Rector's Warden's Report, Harriet Stone: Verbal report provided at meeting. New Vestry Nominating Committee provided list of potential candidates to Fr. Todd at tonight's Vestry meeting. Goal is to establish a slate of four candidates.

Assistant for Pastoral Care, Father Steve: Absent. Fr. Todd shared letter to Vestry from Tuesday Healing Service parishioner and stated St. Mary's will be supporting both mid-week services even with 2016 budget challenges. Fr. Todd passed around program for November 12th Luncheon program, "Five Wishes".

Rector's Report, Father Todd: Written report provided prior to meeting Brass Memorial Plaques, to recognize memorial gifts to St. Mary's, have arrived and will be professionally installed in courtyard (on inside surface of pillars along walk way adjacent to Nursery).

Celebration for Bishop Frade is November 6th. Please sign up in advance.

New Alternate Dioscean Convention Delegate – Rose Schneider (delegate) and all alternate delegates are not able to attend upcoming convention (Nov. 15-16th).

Motion made by JF and seconded by Sue Riddell to elect Diane Kimes as new alternate delegate to the 2015 Diocesan Convention. Motion passed unanimously.

Healing Center Structure committee (to aid in application for grant funding) will consist of Fr. Todd, David Earle, Al Kruger, Sally Hastings, and Karen Lindsay. Committee has met once already and will meet again November 3rd.

Progress of Assistant Rector Search – Position description has been issued and interview process begun. Search will include – but not be limited to - seminary tours in Virginia (VTS), New York (GTS) and Connecticut (Yale). Please keep this project at the top of your prayer list.

Financial Report, Charlie Lippincott (CL): Written report provided prior to meeting.

Gift from the Suzanne and David Jackson Foundation in memory of Jane Farnsworth – \$25K Gift received from foundation in memory of Jane Farnsworth. Copy of donation letter distributed to Vestry at meeting. Motion moved by Nick Pasken in regards to the donation as follows:

“The Vestry gives thanks for the donation of \$25,000 recently received in memory of Jane Farnsworth, and resolves that

1. the proceeds be deposited into the Reserves Trust pending a decision on a suitable use thereof in memory of Jane Farnsworth,
2. the Rector jointly with the Rector's Warden of the time being define a suitable project, and
3. the Rector jointly with the Rector's Warden authorize on the Vestry's behalf the expenditure of up to \$25,000 for said project.

Motion seconded by Harriet Stone. Discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

St. Mary's 2014 Financial Report to Diocese – Review of report still underway. Audit is clean, no problems, but some changes may still be recommended. Report is due to Diocese on Monday, 11/2/15, or St. Mary's delegates don't get to vote at Dioscean convention later in November. Motion moved by Harriet Stone to appoint a temporary audit committee as follows:

“The Vestry resolves to appoint a temporary audit committee

1. to review the 2014 audit report which is due momentarily,
2. to negotiate any elements thereof with the auditor and

3. at its discretion approve said results on behalf of the Vestry,

And further the Vestry appoints to that committee Charlie Lippincott, Jeff Harfst, Steve Strickland.”

Motion seconded Discussion ensued. John Funston (JF) proposed friendly amendment to add a member of the Vestry to the temporary audit committee. JF volunteered for this duty. Motion and friendly amendment passed unanimously.

2016 Pledge Results – At November Vestry meeting, Charlie would like to review a proposed budget for 2016, based on what we know about next year’s pledge income. Would like staff to attend and provide their input.

2015 Current Cash Flow – Typically fall is our low cash flow period. 2015 Shows no difference from past trends. Spread pledges - pledges paid throughout the year - have been doing well. CL anticipates all who pledged to meet their obligations. However, the plate/unidentified donations are low (approx. 60% of previous years’ plate income). Charlie (CL) has already pulled \$21K from savings and put into St. Mary’s checking account (equivalent to borrowing from ourselves). Balance in savings is now approximately \$2.5K. CL proposes to take additional \$35K from the Reserve Account and to put into St. Mary’s checking account. Plan is to have Savings and Reserve accounts made whole as 2015-plate income allows.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s report made by John Funston and seconded by Jim Menendez. Discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously

2016 Pledge results (JF) - Currently have received pledges from approximately half of the number of “pledging units” (e.g. families) as we had at this point in 2015. That is, as of this meeting (10/27), St. Mary’s had received 174 pledge responses though not all have been counted. Per Melissa’s Parish Administrator’s report, as of October 21st, St. Mary’s had received 116 pledges totaling approximately \$399K. The 10/21 subtotal includes 12 new pledging units and one anonymous pledge.

Note: In 2015, St. Mary’s had pledges of approximately \$900K from 325 pledging units.

New Business

Vestry reports due in November: Peter Pignataro on Missions & Outreach (postponed from Oct); Pam Lanier on Traditional Worship Service; Todd Balfort on Facilities

NOTE: Nov-Dec-Jan Vestry meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month (rather than the fourth).

November Ministry Minute (MM) Reminders:

Mission & Out Reach (Peter Pignataro)

Stewardship (Sue Riddell, John Funston) – Sue will report to the congregation on Saturday 11/7, John will give the reports on Sunday, 11/8.

Administrative Note: Please coordinate with Fr. Todd as soon as possible who will be providing MM information to the congregation and at what service(s).

Old Business

Please provide your Vestry report in written format and distribute electronically a minimum of 24 hours prior to the meeting to: vestry@stmarys-stuart.org.

Please read all reports prior to each meeting. Only questions about a report will be discussed at the Vestry meeting. Vestry minutes represent the highlights of meeting discussions and/or reports and are not meant to record verbatim conversations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm
Respectfully submitted
Trina Perna, Clerk