

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
Roseville, Minn.
VESTRY MEETING April 20, 2020
VIA ZOOM

Minutes -

Present: Fr. Randy, Kathy, Ann, Erin, Mike, Jeanna, Lisa, Josh, Barb, Ann, Tom, Al, Alexander; Allison, clerk

6:45 p.m. Checking-in conversation

6:55 p.m. Prayer and Reflections, from Fr. Randy

Reflection on Mark 4:40: calm in a storm -- all of us are leaders, especially in these unexpected storms. Be a calm, steadying influence; be ready to calm those among us. Please don't say "I'm not a leader, I'm just a _____"; everyone is a leader or a teacher or a co-worker, a mentor . . . It wasn't an accident that Jesus was out in the boat with his disciplines. No one should be glad [that we are in this COVID-19 crisis]...but be thankful you are leaders...whenever you face trials, [you are blessed] James 1:2 ff...blessed you in courage and compassion -- and you are out there showing the love of Jesus every day.

Following the reflection, Kathy asked if there was anything to add to the agenda?

7:00 p.m. March Meeting Minutes (Kathy)

Two typos: Add an "s" to special; correct spelling of Josh's last name
Tom moves to accept minutes; Erin has the second--passes.

7:05 p.m. Financials (Tom Linder)

Sharing his screen via Zoom. We have 400 pledges, \$23,087.21 -- 27% of pledges are in for 25% of year: Offerings in good shape.

Statement of financial position, main point: Pooled Investment Fund took a loss of \$54,366.81, from COVID-19 losses.

Statement of activities: Income benefitting from pre-paid pledges; \$28,000 more income than we have spent. Facilities may be a place to look at savings.

Kathy called attention to a couple of things. 1) We did pay Vant Washington for March, even though we cancelled that Community Dinner. 2) Also still paying our paid singers, through Pentecost -- don't want them to float off. Executive decision that Fr. Randy made and Kathy approved.

Tom added that the money has been spent for April and May for singers. Among budget items to consider in face of probable shortfalls: tree removal money is on our budget; parking lot re-do is a dedicated account item.

If the Vestry members have other suggestions on how to present the financials, please let Tom know.

7:15 p.m. Old Business:

- ❖ Status of Phone tree calling: Kathy initiated discussion. Most Vestry members have gone through their list at least once. A few members for whom we don't have phone numbers; a few people reached via email. Along with Vestry callers, also helping are Becky Lucas, Jean Crow, Karen Hartman and Cheryl Bailey. Kathy would like Vestry members to go through their list again.
- ❖ Videotaping services: Ross has stepped in to videotape worship with Fr. Randy and Karla; benefited from tripod. Tom--I think it's good to have our local church. Erin Bowman--one woman with no computer would like to find out if can watch on TV. Tom will investigate the options; Erin will send him the name.
- ❖ Other avenues to encourage togetherness? Marion having Zoom meetings with families, 2 p.m. on Sundays; emails for families; St. C's Families Facebook page. The cave; scavenger hunt with pictures.

1. What about Coffee hours, via Zoom?
2. Erin-- game night? play together the board games, a more active Zoom works for people with kiddos.
3. Tom--bought Pandemic
4. Ann--Bingo would be a good family one.
5. Mike--regular Bible study meetings once a week; or read a book and come together for a book discussion. Will be finishing up with Sacred Ground, so would have time.
6. Lisa, a church had a radio broadcast, people could listen in their cars and wave at each other.
7. P.B. Bishop has tagged Brian Prior to coach baby bishops.
8. Kathy--if someone wants to take one or more of these, Kathy will help set it up. Figure out what night is good for Zoom board games and let her know.

7:30 p.m. New Business

- ❖ Stimulus Programs (Kathy) -- PPP available to churches and other nonprofits; we are in the middle of trying to get info from the payroll provider. Have not been very helpful, when new moneys are approved; if can get it, \$35,000 estimated, dedicated fund to pay salary and benefits only.
1. Program that allows us, as employer to defer paying Social Security, pay back over 2 years: possible for Karla, Marion, Chad. Not in bad shape but concerned not going to get plate offering in April for May or in June. Tom--and people may lose jobs.
 2. Other programs may come in but might come in before next Vestry
 3. Blanket authorization from the Vestry to pursue.
 4. Barb--I move that we authorize Kathy to continue to pursue these stimulus funding opportunities; Lisa seconded; passed.
- ❖ Budget cutting measures, led by Mike and Tom
1. Tom -- two places for possible cuts in spending: a) Not re-doing the parking lot this year; one of the things we expect money from is having a State Fair park-and-ride. Fr. Randy--50/50 chance; if can keep the COVID-19 numbers where they are now . . . might be monitoring numbers of people at the gate at the State Fair (not 2 million people on the grounds at one time, though).
 2. Mike--will be gathering bids for re-surfacing parking lot, and handicapped spaces and repair patch, \$2,300 set aside right now; by next vestry meeting should have bids and cost estimates. Tom--we don't know how much we'd save.
 3. b) For the tree removal, we have set aside \$5,000.
 4. Mike: I thought some of the trees were by the exit ramp. Don & Bruce are going to look at taking down the most dangerous trees themselves.
 5. A couple of other things that will help, have suspended our cleaning service until we get started again; our utilities will be lower, not lighting up the building.
 6. But a concern: Chinese Day Care not operating, not paying rent--that's a problem. But pledges coming in, in good shape. Chinese Day Care pays \$3,000 a month in rent.
 7. Fr. Randy -- DHS has not closed down preschools; Governor Walz may opening up schools only in the fall. There are other portions of the economy that will be opening, then will see parents of preschoolers wanting to come back in.
 8. Mike -- collectively there is some other income from other groups that use the building, as long as the buildings closed, we don't get those funds.

9. Tom -- \$63,000 is the total building use; Chinese Day Care is a little more than half.

10. Kathy--will talk with Mark Brilowski to turn down the boilers, now that the weather has improved.

Strategy session (Kathy)

This isn't going to last forever. Thinking 2 or 3 months ahead, when this is over or mostly over. Should we start thinking about how to come out of this? What do we want to do? How do we want to do it?

Mike--the week before we shut down completely, at both 8 & 10:30, Fr. Randy mentioned eliminating the common cup and distancing; that was a precursor to coming out of this. Ease back into it, with the same kind of social distancing, not having the common cup, not having gatherings downstairs.

Ann-- we need to follow MDH and CDC guidelines, get slowly back into it and follow what they are recommending.

Tom--make sure everyone has a mask.

Jeanna--start collecting masks for those that don't have them.

Ann--Hearts & hands group -- do they have capacity to make masks?

Alexander -- thanksgiving service, when ready, ask people to invite friends

Fr. Randy -- almost doing an on-boarding; how do we re-welcome each other in a safe place. Here's the question: Where have you seen God during this time? And how is that going to re-form the way we do faith community? What are the essential pieces in our lives that connect with our community? I hope this will be a re-awakening.

Kathy--ask Ruth to send out an email to ask people to start making masks. Drop them at the church on Wednesdays.

Could put it on FB, too. Jeanna--can share it with others; if have extras, could drop at Episcopal Homes, as Jennifer is doing.

Kathy--in this for the long haul but I also want to think about bringing in people, even if it's virtual.

Free mask and a roll of toilet paper . . .

Fr. Randy -- Green Team, blessing of bikes, sometime in July, outside event, with social distance, time to invite a neighbor, take a ride up to Central Park, someone could hand out popsicles to people. Blessing the people who have been cooped up.

7:50 p.m. Shout Outs

Pulse of the Parish will be done by Kathy.

Ross for going in and filming for Fr. Randy on a weekly basis.

Marion is going above and beyond; 10 minutes of trying to calm everyone down; kids sharing toys--it's great.

Ruth--she's doing a lot of behind the scenes stuff to keep the place running.

7:55 p.m. Rector Comments:

Staff highlights: Mary Rowe has had her last Sunday with us; we need to celebrate Mary when we get back together; she told me that husband Tom has been recruited to work on Navajo reservation; she will stay in Moab; the need is high; keep them in our prayers.

Karla--playing for video-recorded worship; singers working with them; preparing for Bishop Loya's consecration service.

Chad has been connecting with youth.

Need to offer emotional support for students and families.

Deacon Janet will be doing some reflections, offering the sermon on May 3rd.

Fr. Randy--sermons, quite a bit of pastoral care by phone. Recent deaths included one where the family was able to Zoom as Fr. Randy gave the last rites over the phone.

We will have to re-schedule wedding and baptisms.

State incident manager--about 120 people working in the state offices, Fr. Randy is being the chaplain there, for people who have had family member dying, 18 hour days for 40 days, kind of a sense of what God must feel like, so many needs and few resources. Amazing work being done by very holy people, whether or not they are part of a faith community.

8:00 p.m. Senior Warden Comments

Encouragement to keep calling people . Necessity to reach out to each other, to fellow members on Vestry, to Kathy, to Mike, to Fr. Randy. We can all be here for each other. Kathy is semi-quarantined, not fully diagnosed but obvious what is going on.

8:05 p.m. Junior Warden Comments

Parking lot bids. Saw folks this week working on the Giving Garden, talked with Jeff Jensen about opening up the drainage on the East side of the garden. It will be a fairly easy thing to do.

8:10 p.m. Vestry Comments

Personal reflections and comments by Vestry members.

Fr. Randy--This coming Saturday, we are in an East Metro Area group meeting, via Zoom, from 9:30 to 10:30 to meet with Bishop-elect Craig Loya.

8:20 p.m. Compline led by Fr. Randy.

8:30 p.m. Adjournment

AI moves to adjourn, second is Erin. Motion passes.