

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting March 16, 2020

In attendance: Kathy Ackerman, Fr. Randy Johnson, Ann DePaolis-Jones, Josh Kattelman, Alexander Kun, Jeanna McLoughlin, Al Reedstrom, Michael Sirany, Lisa Spiro; Allison Jensen, clerk

Absent: Erin Bowman, Barb Hovey, Tom Linder

At 6:45 p.m., Fr. Randy opened the meeting.

Prayers and Reflections on the Gospel for today, Mark 4:21 & ff, about the child who was dead and restored and the woman healed of hemorrhaging by touching Jesus' cloak. Isn't that where we are now? Fr. Randy said: "people are making assumptions and decisions, just not the best ones. Jesus says, do not fear. Only believe."

Review of Vestry Covenant

Senior Warden Kathy Ackerman read the covenant, which the Vestry plans to review at each meeting.

February Meeting Minutes

Emailed out the day before the meeting. No changes were suggested. Moved by Josh Kattelman to accept as presented; Al Reedstrom seconded; Vestry voted to approve.

Kathy also noted that, for the minutes of the meeting approving the parochial report, which occurred Feb. 23, 2020, she would appreciate knowing who moved and seconded the approval.

Financials

Details from the financial documents shared with Vestry were presented by Junior Warden Mike Sirany. Kathy Ackerman summed up the most recent financials by saying the parish is doing well. "We're about 16 percent of the way through the year," she said. "Income is about 20 percent; outgo is about 15 percent."

Old Business

1. Lease of Dellwood House—the rent will be raised by \$50 a month, once the contract is signed with renters.
2. Capital campaign funds being sent to PIF. Motion was made at Finance Meeting that Vestry to give Ruth permission, rather than waiting for the set amount of \$20,000 to be reached to move capital campaign funds, to move money to the PIF whenever she needs to, to streamline the process. Al Reedstrom moved to approve the change; Lisa Spiro seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor.

New Business

1. COVID-19 response—An extensive, engaged discussion of worship services, including how worship is meaningful for individuals; how to protect health of

everyone, particularly those who may be vulnerable; how to continue to cultivate a sense of community; what it means to be church—“church is not closed; church is changed”—and more. All members of the Vestry and Fr. Randy Johnson participated. Motion: Suspend 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday services until such time as the Rector recommends the resumption of services. [Note that Wednesday services include fewer than 10 people.] Al Reedstrom moved; Alexander Kun seconded. The vote was one opposed, two abstentions; four approved; the motion carried.

Will look into video and/or Facebook services, so that people may see Fr. Randy and other familiar faces.

Fr. Randy—this is one of the most difficult things that I have ever wrestled with. We need to make sure we are not going to lose that community in the interim. “It means every one of us; not just me. It will take every one of you.” He mentioned special services coming up. Double baptism on March 29; single baptism of April 25; wedding on May 1—will need to keep an eye on crowds.

2. What about other users of the building?
 - Chinese Day Care: Minnesota Dept. of Human Services license day cares—they do not recommend closure at this point. Fr. Randy will check in with Larry Yang on what their plans might be.
 - Spiritual directors and those leading music lessons? Those are mostly one on one, so not a problem.
 - Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band rehearses outdoors in good weather.
 - AA gatherings run to about 20, leader Kevin might cancel but people sometimes still show up. Suggested that AA could meet in the Parish Hall, which several agreed with; it’s their decision whether to meet.
3. Pastoral care discussion on how to take care of people who are isolated in care centers, hospitals or at home. Vestry will work with Ruth and Fr. Randy to create phone trees—a weekly check-in with folks, is there anything we can help you? Ann has a couple of parishioners who have already volunteered to take part in this care-giving. Kathy Ackerman will work on a script to help people introduce themselves, why they are calling, what to say to their fellow parishioners.
4. Share our food and other resources. Kathy Ackerman said she was “shelf-shocked” at store on Saturday. Could we set up rapid response team to help people who are out of things? Suggestion of a central location at church with stuff that people need, so the team could find it quickly.
5. Community Dinners, discussion of options, with Al Reedstrom, who organizes the dinners, taking the lead. He will call Vant Washington, the chef, to ensure that the next dinner is easily put in take-out boxes. Reduced

- number of volunteers will work in kitchen and to hand out the dinners to-go. Include a slip announcing this may be our last community dinner for a while; please call the office to check ahead of the April dinner date.
6. Four paid choir voices—we will continue paying them, even if we won't have an in-person service for a while. If we are streaming a service, they would help Karla Cole provide the musical portion.
 7. Communications, particularly the website and Facebook presence, should be clear and steady and, if possible, beefed-up. Chad has some time to contribute to the website.
 8. Finances: Ruth will keep an eye on financial contributions.
 9. Online access for Vestry, other meetings? Discussion of options ended up with Zoom platform, which will, for a monthly fee, provide meeting services. Josh Kattelman moved to approve a month-to-month contract with Zoom for the church; Lisa Spiro seconded. Unanimously approved.
 10. Last Lent Soup Supper—the problem is it is within the 14-day window. Fr. Randy has not heard from EMMA yet. Fr. Randy will call Blair Pogue. If we go forward, will need volunteers for set up and clean up.
 11. Episcopal Exchange—Jeanna McLoughlin reported that she was able to log in; she posted about Wednesday morning Eucharist. Our events (when we are able to have them), posted there, will also appear in the weekly news from the ECMN. Email link to the weekly newsletter will be sent by Mike Sirany to the Vestry.
 12. Lay Leadership Day report was read by Alexander Kun, with some suggestions for outreach.
 13. Program needs:
 - Counters—Jerry and Lynn Baxter are retiring from this job;
 - food drive—people may want to give to our local Keystone Community Services [food shelf](#) for the time being.
 - Ushers at 8 a.m., on hold for a while . . .

Executive Session—no minutes taken.

Shout Outs—Green Team for work on Soup Supper. Pulse of the Parish will be distributed electronically.

Rector comments

Hold on to your hats, friends, in this time of rapid change. Keep your eyes open. You are all pastoral care ministers in this community.

Senior Warden Comments

If you need help, you are not sure how to proceed, not comfortable with how to do something or come up with a new idea, shoot Kathy Ackerman an email, call her in the evenings.

Junior Warden Comments

Mike Sirany covered four items. Bugs in the sacristy and choir area will be taken care of in the fall. Parking lot upgrade is in the works. Finance has approved adding snow removal duties to the company that plows our parking lot. There's concern about Giving Garden drainage, which should be handled soon.

Other Vestry made comments.

In place of Compline, Fr. Randy Johnson shared the evening prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book.

Adjournment

At about 9:20 p.m., Josh Kattelman moved to adjourn; Al Reedstrom seconded; approved by unanimous Vestry vote.