

Vestry Minutes Dec 20, 2021
6:45 p.m. St. Christopher's Parish Hall (in person)
Note: masks will be required during the meeting

In attendance: Fr. Randy, Chris, Pat, Michael, Al, Allison, Ann, Josh, Erin, Leslie. Not in attendance: Ross, Jeanna, and Alexander. Guest: Becky Lucas

6:45pm Mike Opening Advent reading from Bishop Loya: Matthew 4:17-22

6:52 Chris Reading of Vestry Covenant

6:55 Becky Lucas Presentation on Afghan refugee support program. Co-sponsor opportunity. "Fling wide the portal of your heart, . . . adorn with joy." It will be life-changing for all of us, not just those working with the family. Becky's family took on five Vietnamese people in the 1970s; Robin and Becky and Jim and Edie helped a Russian man in the 1990s. In August, Robin said, we should sponsor an Afghanistan family. Needed a team to sign up for a class. There's a lot of structure now; more people are needed than in 1975. ECMN is encouraging this work, coordinating with Minnesota Council of Churches. We would be co-sponsors; families from 2 to 10 people. MCC has the legal responsibility with the government; they have financial responsibility. Committee has received \$8,000 in pledges to help but not required from the church.

Team of 6 to 12: Hospitality, education, transportation, and housing. MCC finds them a hotel and helps find housing. Once they have an apartment, furnish, clothing, stock a kitchen with 2 to 4 weeks of food. Bridging as a resource or can ask folks; ECMN also will be stocking furniture and food from outstate. Asking for helpers, 13 people who want to be on the committee: Robin & Becky, Cheryl Bailey & Dan Humes, Kathy & Ross, Karen Hartman, Jennifer Wright and Tom Linder, Wendy Brilowski, Bill Hanna, Leslie & Joel Norton

Back-up support: Jean and Scott Crow, Allison Jensen, Karla and Matt Cole, Jean Darnell, Don and Julie Shiek, Mark Brilowski

Lead person: Becky. Chairs for the four areas of help.

Michael: Important to have check-ins every two or three months from the group.

Ann: Will impact our community in a good way; where is the money coming from?

Becky: People have just offered it.

Fr. Randy: Minnesota Council of Churches will be working with the \$1.8 billion in federal funds designated and helping Afghan families find a place. A significant commitment of time.

Motion for Vestry to approve St. Christopher's to be involved in ECMN co-sponsoring of an Afghan family. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Becky will inform the Episcopal Church in Minnesota contact.

7:15 Mike Review/Approval of November minutes: Motion to approve, Al; Erin seconded; approved.
Pulse of Parish presenter: One service at 10 a.m. on 12/27: Pat Ahern
Additions to Agenda? Stewardship update from Chris

7:15 Mike Financial review: The Vestry needs to approve the budget on 1/17. Doing quite well, compared with what anticipated.
Chris **Vestry:** thank you for the calling and the notes; 98 participated, 51 increased their pledge; 30 renewed at same level; 10 decrease or drop; 7 new commitments, up \$45,000+ **for a total of 317,974**
Mike For the year, looking at a possible \$95,000 surplus (includes a \$20,000 gift, unexpected); expect PPP loan to be forgiven; Fr. Randy was budgeted to go full time in August but stayed part-time.

New Business

7:25 Mike Approval of recommendations from Finance:
Salary increases for staff: Last increase was 2 years ago; 4% increase proposed. Motion: Approve a 4% increase in salary for staff as listed: Al moved, Erin seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Discretionary fund/stipend for Marilyn Baldwin: Has been serving at the altar and visiting people. Fr. Randy and she talked, a \$500 bonus a recognition of service. Fund she could draw out of for books or transportation expenses.

Motion for \$500 stipend for Marilyn Baldwin. Al moved; Erin seconded; passed by voice vote

Motion for \$500 discretionary fund (can be carried over) for Marilyn Baldwin's use in ministry—Al moved; Erin seconded; passed by voice vote.

Endowment Fund (Pooled Investment Fund) draw decrease. Draw of 5% of an average over 20 quarters; about \$15,000 a year. Has to be set by Dec. 31 and cannot be changed in the next year. Proposed to move it from 5% to 4% for 2022, will help the principal grow; about a \$3,000 decrease to draw, stays in endowment. Motion: Al moved; Erin seconded; passed by voice vote.

Rector Housing Allowance Designation for Priests who own or rent their homes. Has to be claimed by the Rector in last Vestry meeting, applies to 2022. Needs to be accepted. Al moved, Josh seconded. Approved by voice vote.

Next Vestry meeting: approval of budget; Junior Warden candidate invited

Annual meeting: Sunday, Jan 23, 2022

- 7:50** Chris Jr. Warden candidate Karen Hartman — Altar Guild, Green Team, Giving Garden, Special Education teacher. New Vestry member candidates: Cheryl Bailey; Madisen Crow; Eric Hedican
- 7:54** Vestry Liaison Reports
WiFi has been improved; phones replaced
Ross has been recording services; iPad to run the camera; classes to come up to train others
Hearts & Hands made bags for home-bound folks, Don Horton signed and gave his books.
Mark Brilowski — leak in archives room from a valve in the church heater, circuit board in furnace fried; taking care of heating.
All the recording for the Christmas pageant got done this week; looking forward to it.
- 8:00** Randy Rector Report
PPP forgiveness: Dave VP of North Star Bank sent files to be filled out; Ruth had records. Dave took care of all the paperwork.
- 8:08** All Shout outs — Karla, the musicians, and the readers for Lessons & Carols. Mark Brilowski for the heating work; Marion for the Christmas Pageant recordings. Bruce Warkentien for putting together a spreadsheet on salary increases.
- 8:12** All Rector, Sr W, Jr W, Vestry comments
- 8:21** AI Compline
- 8:26** Adjournment AI moved; Erin seconded; passed by voice vote

Next meeting of Vestry: Monday, January 17, 2022 6:45 pm (in-person Parish Hall)

Vestry Liaison Assignments

Pat	Finance
Jeanna	Recruitment, some communications
Ross	Communications
Josh	Music
Erin	Children's ministries
Al	Community Dinner/Keystone, and Archives
Leslie	Garden
Alexander	Green Team
Ann	Kitchen team, Funerals/Caterer
Allison	Web site, Communications (chair of team)