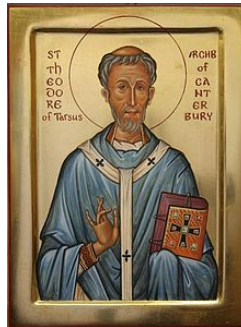




St. Margaret's Church
Westminster Parish
Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, September 19, 2017



Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 690



Attending:

Peter Mayer+, Rector
Charlie Lang, Treasurer
Gwen Davis
Paul O'Donnell
Valery Weekley

Anne Sessions, Senior Warden
Fran Becker
Christine Feldmann
Doug Seybert
Tom Wenz

Steve Brennan, Junior Warden
Maggy Cullman
Ruth Harmon
Al Todd

Absent: Nellie Bowers, Tim Parker, Trish Schilling, and Kathy Polk, Clerk

Also Attending: Kathy Lang as volunteer clerk, Elizabeth Radley, senior administrator and Grant Harmon.

1. Opening prayer was given at 7:02 pm by Fran Becker.
2. The minutes from July were approved with corrections and accepted.
3. Submitted Reports

Rector's Report: the Rev. Peter Mayer

Highlighting his written report, Peter remarked on how good he felt about seeing smooth transitions with the departures of Rev Jane Hague and Jenelle Mejia. He also talked about how the departures provide an opportunity to look at current staffing levels and the possibility of lessening the staff compensation footprint within the overall parish budget. Additionally Elizabeth has provided research and documentation to support a reclassification in job title from Senior Administrator to Director of Operations. Going forward Peter plans to hire a full-time priest from the seminary in the spring. Outreach will continue to be lay lead while formation will have a clergy member associated with that activity.

Tim Parker is drafting a 3-year budget.

Plans are coming together for the 325th anniversary weekend. Merchandise will soon be available for purchase.

Treasurer's Report: Charlie Lang

Overall we are in good shape. Online giving is on the increase. The P&L report for the end of July shows that we are in the red – but this is typical for the summer and it is a far smaller amount than in the previous three years.

With the departure of Jane, Charlie discovered that there were many names on her discretionary account that needed to be removed.

MOTION: Vestry authorizes the removal of the Rev. Jane Hague, Fred Billups and George Saroch from P&C checking account 55-6520-3852 (Associate Rector Discretionary Fund) and to add Charles M. Lang, Jr. and Harriet Newquist to the account.

Passed Unanimous.

Other notes on P & L – Bookkeeper needs to recode cemetery expense (5100) to designated account.

Bank/Payroll Charges (6065) have been high this year. The budget for next year should have additional money added to it.

The expenses in Special Events and Trips (5950) were mostly for the volunteer appreciation luncheon.

4. Priority Check-ins

Forum follow-up – A big thank you to Maggy Cullman, Tim Parker and Fran Becker for the previous Sunday's adult forum on the Long Term Planning Commission. Presentation was given at a good pace with lots of information. Some discussion followed about why there seem to be questions about availability of child care when we feel like we have done a really good job of providing it.

5. Organ Replacement Project – Majority of meeting was spent on a call with Jack Beathards of Showenstein Organ builders where he discussed the particulars of putting a pipe organ into St Margaret's. He is also knowledgeable about digital organs and provided some information on them as well.

Positioning – Pipe cases would go on either side of east window. Size is determined by size of building. Every pipe organ is custom built for the building that it goes into. The console can be placed anywhere. No structural changes to the church would be required. However, if a new facility is built, moving the pipe organ would be costly – 10 to 15% of replacement cost. If the existing church is expanded in any way, he would add a section to existing pipes. No cost estimate was provided for that situation.

Cost - \$428k plus case work which is \$100k – 150k. Maintenance would be required about twice a year at a cost of about \$1500/year indefinitely. It should last for 50 years without major work. Temperature, air quality and humidity all affect the sound and therefore would have to be maintained.

Installation – Three to four weeks

Other local churches that have pipe organs – St Paul's on K St., Georgetown Chapel, St Paul's School. He also listed locations in New York. He recommends going to listen to one of them.

Schedule – If we were to immediately issue a contract, the soonest he could begin construction is after Easter of 2020.

Digital organs – Mr. Beathards recognizes that he is a pipe organ enthusiast but he did say that there are places where he recommends a digital organ. He is not opposed to them at all. He explained that the sound is created by recording the tone of pipes one by one and recreating the sound digitally. The technology is now pretty good. He does not recommend any kind of a hybrid system.

Cost – In his view it is a wash over time. There will be annual costs for the pipe organ but it should last 50 years. A digital organ would probably need to be replaced in 20 years.

Tone – a subjective issue. The electronic sound seems wear on some people. Pipe organ will always sound nice.

Organists – the technique is the same for both types; however, a pipe organ will attract far more organists.

Discussion after the call - What is the opportunity cost of purchasing an organ? What else might we do with that sort of money? There are parishioners that have said they will contribute to the purchase of a pipe organ. Talk to the congregation to find out what people want.

The October vestry meeting will have a similar discussion with an expert on digital organs.

5. Wardens' Reports

Junior Warden's Report/Facilities Report – Steve Brennan

The technology committee continues to work through challenges throughout the campus. The installation of the new telephone system by ComTech is underway. There have been problems with the existing IT infrastructure in the Formation Building that have required ongoing interaction between CCI and ComTech. As always, the members of St. Margaret's Technology Committee, as well as our consultant John Purnell, and Elizabeth Radley have contributed to helping resolve these issues.

County water is expected on St Margaret's Road in the spring of 2019. This will require evaluation of the current plumbing infrastructure to determine if changes will need to be made.

Rental House – The Master Plan Review committee recommends maintaining the current rental property. It has been rented continuously and the current rental rates cover all expenses associated with the property. There were concerns from the vestry about existence of mold and whether or not it makes sense to continue to maintain a rental property.

Senior Warden's Report – Anne Sessions

Anne highlighted that Project 3.25 merchandise is on order. The glassware, window clings and thermal mugs are here. Posters are in their first draft with assistance coming from the History & Archives Team in adding historical pictures.

Anne is working with Day School and Vestry members to clarify expectations and information needed for financial reporting between the Day School and the Vestry.

Stewardship efforts to date are going very well.

6. Adjourn. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 17. Valery Weekley will lead the opening prayer and Missions will give its report.

Faithfully submitted,

Kathy Lang