



St. Margaret's Church
Westminster Parish
Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, May 15, 2018



Day Prior to the Martyrs of the Sudan



Attending:

Peter Mayer+, Rector
Charlie Lang, Treasurer
Maggy Cullman
Phil Graham
Rex Pingle

Paul O'Donnell, Senior Warden
Jim Barnett, Clerk
Gwen Davis
Ruth Harmon
Al Todd

Steve Brennan, Junior Warden
Fran Becker
Sarah Westcott
Tim Parker

Absent: Christine Feldmann, Abby Wenz, Brian Williams

1. Opening prayer was given at 7pm by Fran Becker
2. The Rector led a brief discussion about the Diocesan Convention that he and others attended this past weekend. Several churches in our Dioceses are facing very difficult times. We need to keep them in our minds and prayers. See Rectors Report below for additional information.
3. The minutes from the April meeting were approved.

4. Submitted Reports

A. Rector's Report – Peter Mayer

- 1) We have 20 excellent applicants for the Director of Music position. Interviews will be conducted in the near term and 3 finalists will be forwarded to the Rector for consideration. The Rector is optimistic that the position will be filled by September.
- 2) The Invite, Welcome, Connect initiative continues with strong buy-in from the congregation. We will continue to refine and instill the premise within SMC.
- 3) Dave Boyce has been elected to the Diocesan Standing Committee.
- 4) Our Assistant Bishop Chilton is coming up on retirement. Bishop Sutton is searching for a successor.
- 5) 4 resolutions were discussed:
 - a) Compensation
 - b) A Maryland voice for common sense gun control.
 - c) Poor Peoples Movement (multi denominational and subject to interpretation).
 - d) Opioid (and addiction) concerns and what local parishes can do.All resolutions passed, with minor edits.

B. Treasurer's Report – Charlie Lang

- 1) Accounts are in good shape.
- 2) As we near the end of the Capital Campaign we are experiencing a decrease in pledges. This was anticipated as the Campaign winds down.

- a) The Campaign "officially" continues into 2019 but for all intent and purposes, it will be closing out in 2018.
 - b) SMC did very well in sustaining our commitment to this effort.
 - c) It may be prudent in the Fall for a small group to review the campaign results to draw lessons learned for future campaigns. This should include a discussion with the Stewardship Committee.
 - d) The vestry wishes to decide a course of action to fund the building deficit in the fall, so as to not burden the next vestry with the decision.
- 3) There were no endowment withdrawals in April.
 - 4) Negative balance remains about \$20K. Some comparative analysis has been done against 2017 results. It would seem that a closer comparative might be 2015 when pressures were put on the budget process by staff adjustments and the completion of the building itself.

C. Formation Commission Report – Gwen Davis and Ruth Harmon

- 1) We continue to need youth teachers, particularly middle school age adult support staff.
- 2) The SMDS Board continues to make progress on the recommendations.
 - a) 4 new Board Members were approved at the last Board meeting. Updated handout submitted.
 - b) The Board will continue to work the SMDS/SMC integration initiative in the fall.
- 3) The curriculum changes for the Youth Program are funded.
- 4) The Rector is spending additional time with the youth to hear from them what they expect from our programs and how SMC can best support their needs. He is also working to sustain connections with returning college parishioners who are back for the summer.
- 5) The Rector reiterated that we all need to spend more time listening to the youth to hear what they think, to best connect.
- 6) It was mentioned that the Monday night event (Faith and Fellowship) is well received and attended by the Youth because there is no agenda.

D. The Campus Plan – led by the Rector

- 1) A Committee report on the future of the campus was provided to the Vestry in 2017. The Rector feels that it is now time to prioritize and address the results of that report.
- 2) The Facilities Operations Assistant (FOA) is now onboard and working out very well. The Director of Operations can now devote her time to operations.
- 3) The County Water line will be coming to our area and we need a plan for integration. While there is no definitive timeline, the water main is now at Rt 50 and St Margaret's Road, and anticipate beginning work to extend the lines in 2019 or 2020.
 - a) Once the county begins moving toward SMC, the Vestry will need to approve the funds for the hook up.
 - b) Question is, will we want one line or two, the second being for the fire suppression system.
 - I) The sense of the Vestry was to do them both at the same time avoid future costs.
 - II) B&G Committee will work to refine the costs when more information is available but expect total hookup to cost between \$30K and \$40K.
 - III) The Treasurer reiterated that this is a Capital Improvement budget activity and would be paid from the Trust fund.

It is the sense of the Vestry that SMC access the country water system when it is proximate and that two hookups be funded to accommodate future needs of the Church.

- 4) Jousting will again be hosted on SMC grounds by the Maryland Jousting Association on July 7th.
 - a) Discussion regarding SMC engagement with future jousts ensued.
 - I) We should inform the Association that we no longer desire to host the event.
 - II) Could we charge the Association, and would we want to?
 - III) We will ask the Association if they would like to remove the poles that remain in the field?

- IV) With the planting of trees and such, the configuration of the field has changed and is less conducive to Jousting or hosting such events.
- V) We need to consider SMC's best use for the field in question.
- b) SMC will form a committee to review land usage with respect to the field. Al Todd will work with Peter and Paul to form this committee.
- c) Potential for expansion in the Chancel section of the Church?
 - I) How can we best utilize this section of the Church?
 - II) We could add 30-40 seats if there is a requirement for additional seating.
 - III) Several issues and concerns were raised, and it was suggested that a small group come together to consider issues and formulate a way ahead for Vestry consideration.
 - IV) It was recommended that we generate a non-organ-focused drawing of possible options for expanded sanctuary seating, with the realization that we need to replace the existing organ.
 - V) It was recognized that changing the "visual characteristics" of the sanctuary can be a very big deal in a church.
- d) The possible acquisition of the land beyond the cemetery.
 - 1) Al Todd will circle back on the issue with John Goldwaithe and Leisal Kilcrease, members of the LRPC, and ask them to come up with a recommendation and plan to proceed.
 - 2) Research and discussion will continue.

5. Warden's Reports

A. Junior Warden – Steve Brennan (not held by Clerk)

- 1) The new FOA is working out really well.
- 2) The Director of Operations continues to work on the various issues surrounding the piano that was on loan and damaged in the flood.
- 3) The insurance company has satisfied all other aspects for reimbursement from the flood.
- 4) The Junior Warden also indicated that he had met with Mark Torrence of the Technology Team regarding the Tech Teams "streaming" project and was told the costs will likely be approximately \$3,000.

B. Senior Warden – Paul O'Connell (not held by Clerk)

- 1) Met with the Chair of the SMDS School Board and had a very positive conversation.
- 2) Julie Svendsen will take over the Acolytes coordination responsibility.
- 3) Work on the parishioner database continues.
 - a) Who is still active in the Church and who may have departed?
 - b) Who does what and where might their skills/interests best be utilized?
 - c) Fundamentally, what product do we want from the database?
 - d) What questions do we want answered by this database?
- 4) This Sunday is the Ministries Showcase and we are hoping to find volunteers for various ministries.
 - a) Approach, engage, listen to their parishioner's stories
 - b) Work to integrate their talents/passions into to opportunities within SMC.
- 5) The Day School graduation is 8 June and it would be great if Vestry members were in attendance.

5. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm with the singing of the doxology.

Next regular meeting is Tuesday June 18, 2018 in the Formation Building.

Faithfully,

Jim Barnett
Clerk