



## St Margaret's Episcopal Church Vestry

Subject: Minutes for 15 February 2022

Attending via Zoom: Peter Mayer+ (Rector), Patti Sachs+ (Associate Rector), Kristen Berthelotte (Senior Warden), Paul Shurke (Junior Warden), Elizabeth Radley (Director of Operations), Katherine Wiernicki (Treasurer), David Allen, Austin Canuel, Matt Chasse, Marti Engstrom, Alden Gross, Janice John, Elizabeth Kopack, Kathy Lang, Susan Roberts, Dan Tootle, Ernie Tucker, and Jim Barnett (Clerk).

Not Attending: Chris Prender.

This meeting was conducted in Zoom.

A Quorum was noted per the SMC Bylaws.

- 1. Opening prayer was given at 7:01 pm by the Marti Engstrom.**
- 2. The meeting was called to order by the Rector. The January 2022 Vestry minutes were not approved pending additional corrections.**
- 4. Submitted reports:**

### **A. The Rector's opening.**

The Buildings and Grounds report will be done by the Junior Warden in due course. The book provided by the Rector will be discussed at a later date when members have had a chance to read and engage. The topic seems trendy, and the author is a real character. The "model" has been around for quite a while and works. The Rector requested further questions regarding his posted report. "You know where to reach me and where to find me."

### **B. St Margaret's Day School report by Kathy Lang. (Posted on Realm)**

The most significant thing that the St Margaret's Day School (SMDS) Board has been working on is the transition in leadership. The Director is retiring in June 2022 after 15 years in the position. The board decided to add an Assistant Director position to the administration which required a review of all duties within administration and then creating new job descriptions for both positions. Additionally, careful consideration was given to candidates for both positions through detailed interviews and resume reviews.

**C. Treasurer's report.** (Posted to Realm)

It was not a bad start to the year. Pledge revenue was over Budget expenditures. We are running \$27,067 ahead of the budget. We are off to a good start.

The market has been correcting so there was a \$251,000 "unrecognized" loss to the Endowment.

The Music Director has indicated that he will use designated funds for music for the youth to start a hand bell choir project.

The Mission Commission has made some adjustments to their designated fund.

The HVAC expenditure was approved by the Vestry in 2021 for no more than \$35,000. Those funds did not come out until 2022 when the actual work was done. While there was no change to the operating fund, the Endowment draw did increase to closer to 6%. While the Vestry approved a 5.31% draw, it is now 5.95%

In view of the monthly changes in things like pledges, we are now calling it our "forecast."

At the end of last year, we were holding 3 months in reserve for operating expenditures. We held \$125,000 in reserve. If expenses are higher as we open up, we may need to set aside more. We don't have the facts or figures so the treasurer will keep the Vestry posted.

We will be making the Grants funds available as soon as they indicate they need the funds. There may be a need to make a draw for Reparations this year. The Vestry was reminded that the Grants process now includes a 5<sup>th</sup> weighted factor for TRR.

Coffee hour chat this Sunday from 1015-1100 will move us forward in the TRR process and will feature a guest speaker. The guest speaker is Ernest Gibson, and he will speak on his perspective with "Language" as the subject consistent with the TRR schedule.

**D. Junior Warden's report.** (Posted on Realm)

The HVAC repairs were done \$5,000 under budget and are now completed. We are looking at a repaint of the sanctuary, inside the Church. The Junior Warden was reminded that he would need explicit permission before this work is begun.

We are moving forward with the Adopt a Garden plan as proposed to Vestry previously.

There has been a suggestion that we consider solar panels for the south facing Parish Hall and Office. These panels can be very expensive and can take as long as 25 years to amortize. If we find a donor, as we did for the existing panels, then we should consider proceeding. There was some dissent on the amortization timeline. A second "hard look" was suggested for the cost and amortization schedule. There may also be an asbestos issue with the older buildings.

Is there anyway the HVAC thermostat can be simplified? The existing thermostat is programmable and seems to work for our purposes. The newer “smart” thermostats are actually more complex and beyond our needs.

The Vestry has agreed to make breakfast for our Winter Relief guests on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We would like to have two crews, one to set up and serve and one to clean up after the event. This should be a fun time team building event. Staff is doing the same breakfast that Sunday for our guests.

**E. Senior Warden’s report.** (On Realm)

As the Junior Warden indicated we will proceed with the Adopt-A-Garden project the end of this month. A kickoff social is tentatively planned for March 27<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for help with a bigger “Earth Event” later in the spring. Deconflicting this from already planned SMDS Spirit of Earth Day events around Earth Day will probably move SMCs celebration to early May.

**F. The Rector’s report** (Posted to vestry)

The Rector has purchased a book for each Vestry member titled How to Try. He would appreciate Vestry reading the book and prepare to discuss the final chapter on the Benefits Map. The chapter proposes setting up a cost benefit matrix with four quadrants. We need to look at where we and staff are putting a lot of time and energy and then contemplate the benefit of this expenditure. There are things we put a lot of energy into without a big payoff. Think about ministry and place each thought on the axis for discussion. Where are we putting energy and where might we want to consider the cost benefit trade for a different outcome. Easter Vigil was brought up as an example. Lots of effort goes into this service and only about 30 people are in attendance. The payoff simply isn’t there. And then we head into Easter Week and all that entails. In this regard, what will life look like after COVID? Things we were hanging onto before the Pandemic might warrant the same effort going forward. The Rector reminded the Vestry that the mission of SMC is to “Transform lives in Christ.” Be spiritual in our review but pragmatic. We need new pledgers and new families. There are new retirees settling into Annapolis and we need them in our pews on Sunday. We need to foster engagement. Hopefully we can break into smaller groups for this effort. No one ever wants to talk about what to give up but we need to consider things we can do better. We can do some other things to bring folks through the door and let the Holy Spirit work on them. Some ideas were thrown out.

**For the Good of the Order.**

The SMDS Silent Auction will be April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Maritime Museum. Hopefully live this year.

The Pancake Supper is Winter Relief.

The meeting ended at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Barnett