



## St Margaret's Episcopal Church Vestry

Subject: Minutes for 16 March 2021 Draft 1

Attending: Peter Mayer (Rector), Patti Sachs (Associate Rector), Kristen Berthelotte (Senior Warden), Elizabeth Radley (Director of Operations), Katherine Wiernicki (Treasurer), David Allen, Stacia Bontempo, Marti Engstrom, Cory Greene, Barbara Friedmann, Alden Gross, Elizabeth Kopack, Kathy Lang, Luke Morgan, Chris Pender, Susan Roberts, Ella Tomko, Jim Barnett (Clerk)

Not present: Paul Schurke (Junior Warden), Charlie Lang (Asst Treasurer)

**This meeting was held virtually (platform was Zoom) as dictated by the prevailing pandemic.**

A Quorum was noted per the SMC Bylaws.

- 1. Opening prayer was given at 7 pm by Barbara Friedmann.**
- 2. The meeting was called to order by the Rector and the February 2021 Vestry minutes were approved.**
- 3. The Rector updated the Vestry on the status of the Junior Warden and requested that others considering picking up Junior Warden responsibilities as they come up until he returns.**

#### **4. Submitted reports:**

##### **A. The Treasurer's report was posted to Vestry.**

The treasurer noted that revenues exceeded expenditures but that with regathering we can anticipate expenditures increasing over the coming months. A draw against the Endowment was made of \$1,250 to accommodate the CEEP Network contract. This is an annual expenditure. In March we will move the \$203,000 remaining in the SMC 2020 account as unexpended into the Endowment as prescribed by Vestry motion late last year.

A question was asked regarding anticipated costs in preparing the sanctuary for live streaming. The Rector reflected that this cost will be about \$23,000 of which we already have \$13,000. We are looking for the remaining required funds but might have to come back to the Vestry for this

“must do” cost. DCA has indicated that they will install 3 cameras for this function, and we will see what additional costs will be incurred to optimize this capability.

The Assistant Rector opined that staff is about ready for a break. The Rector reflected on the change inherent with going virtual. In the past, his home computer was not linked to the church server. With the advent of Covid and the requirement to go virtual, he found it necessary to open that link. The results are that he, and the rest of staff, are finding it more difficult to separate work from home and “our work” is emotional and takes a toll. The organ has required constant attention and the run up to opening is also weighing on us all.

While we would like to open going into Easter, we are simply not ready and crowd control would exacerbate our problems given social distancing requirements.

Vestry members offered to help Clergy and staff with whatever might be helpful to reduce stress.

The Rector was grateful that folks were willing to step up and help, “these are the bonds that makes our church strong.” Our church has remained together through this difficult year.

#### **B. Formation report was submitted to the Vestry.**

There is a great deal of planning ongoing to prepare for the return of in person events.

Emails have been addressed to key volunteers with questions regarding getting back together. While we have an urgency to regroup, we want to do it safely.

With respect to Sunday School, classes are still happening but are sparsely attended. This is probably due to a lack of information and we will correct this.

For the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, when church reconvenes outdoors, Godly Play will also happen between services and outdoors.

We continue to plan to have Vacation Bible School this summer June 22- July 1. We are looking to the Director of SMDS for support in this endeavor since that school has been open and adjusted to the prescribed meeting protocols. We will need volunteers for VBS, as always.

A question was asked regarding SMC’s sense of urgency to be vaccinated by our volunteers to enhance safety. The limiting factor here is the speed at which the vaccine will become available for various groups. We need to remember that certain groups are precluded from receiving the vaccine. It is hoped that SMC will do more to reach our congregants and encourage them to get their vaccinations. It was reminded that children under the age of 16 are not authorized to be vaccinated until greater study is completed.

#### **C. Senior Warden’s report was submitted to the Vestry.**

The Senior Warden spoke to the Junior Warden yesterday to wish him our best. He indicated that he has been in contact with the company that provided the estimate for work to hook SMC up to the country water line and that the contractor intends to honor that estimate. The Rector reminded the Vestry that they approved this hook up in April 2018 when the opportunity was first considered. The good news is that once we are hooked up, the pressure will be constant and the quality equally reliable.

The Senior Warden has continued to work on the new organ installation and funding initiatives in this regard. CCS, who was so successful in our Capital Campaign for the new building, has been enlisted to help with this initiative. Anchor Donor contact has begun and the letter to Vestry sent. The Director of Music continues to work the speaker issues and resolve requisite construction estimates.

#### **5. For the good of the order.**

The Vestry was reminded how important it was to reflect 100% Vestry participation in the Organ Funding Campaign so that the entire congregation could see that enthusiastic response. It is possible to contribute through Realm by clicking on Give and annotate Organ. Please let the Rector and Senior Warden know when individual Vestry members have made their pledge for completeness.

The Trust and Reparation Task Force lead gave a quick summary of activities. Work is ongoing to develop survey for the Parish that will be released after Easter to better inform the Task Force of the Parish's position on reparations and reconciliation. The Task Force has divided into three groups, History, Education (working on the survey), and Community Outreach. The Task Force would like to have more age diversity if anyone can consider joining in this regard.

Bishop recently keynoted a discussion on race, and he reflected not on what Jesus would do, but what he did.

The meeting and Zoom call were ended at 1954.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Barnett

Clerk