

Vestry Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2023 - 4:30 p.m.

Attendance: Rev. Kelly Steele, Doug Eberle, Beth McDonald, Sally Robinson, Ken Cote, Pete Kastner, Susan Homar, Phil Snyder, Regina Holderness, Mary Lee Beach, Aubrey Brawner, Suzanne Thomas, Susanne O’Day. Absent: Rev. David Wantland, Babs Lutton

Vestry Covenant Prayer led by Pete Kastner.

Respect Guideline Review

Mission & Vision team building activity led by Garrett. 1 hour. The purpose is to create group cohesion, and perform exercises to get to know one another. There will be team building, vulnerability, laughter and sharing.

Consent Agenda: VPOC’s will be due for the June meeting.

Memorial Tree Planting guideline: Last month Debbie Giordan presented a draft for a Memorial Tree & Shrub Garden on the south-west side of the church. Debbie has contacted John Glen, the owner of a landscape company who has come highly recommended. John will develop a landscape design for \$600. There is money in the Memorial Fund to pay for this. It may take a month or so to complete. The Flower Guild requested a number of plants be included in the plan. John will develop a plan for both. The formal plans will be reviewed by the vestry when they are completed.

Finance: Doug Eberle reviewed the financial numbers for March and the first quarter. March pledge income was strong (23.5 % over budget) while non-pledge income was 53.7% under budget. YTD income is over budget and YTD expenses are under budget. Net income was \$11,735 over budget and expenses were 2.9% under budget. The Finance committee is moving money into investments. The financial documents will be kept in the parish office in a binder monthly for anyone to review.

The following motion for Vestry action at the Finance Committee meeting on April 20, 2023.

❖ **Robert Tripp Fund 2023 distribution**

St. Peter’s will receive \$19,179.27 from the 2023 distribution of the Robert C. Tripp DDS Fund. Other recipients of the fund are the VMI Foundation, to fund a scholarship, and Hospice Savannah. There are no restrictions on St. Peter’s use of these monies. The Tripp Fund is a Donor Designated Fund of the Savannah Community Foundation, Inc. and the investment advisor is Kelly Bouchillon, Sr. of Sound View Wealth Advisors. LLC. For the last four years (2019 – 2022) the Vestry has designated this distribution to the Maintenance Reserve Fund. In prior years the Vestry designated the Tripp Fund distribution to the St. Peter’s Endowment Fund. The Finance Committee recommends designating the 2023 Tripp Fund distribution to the Maintenance Reserve Fund (MRF) to strengthen the MRF fund balance, especially given the expenditures for the sanctuary HVAC project.

❖ **Motion:**

The Finance Committee recommends Vestry approval for designating the \$19,179.27 2023 annual distribution of the Robert C. Tripp DDS Fund to the St. Peter's Maintenance Reserve Fund.

Motion made by Mary Lee Beach to accept motion. Susan Homar seconded. All approved.

HVAC Update: Pete Kastner provided an update for the HVAC unit and progress. The construction phase is completed. The clean-up and reorganizing the church has begun. Next week the church will be cleaned. The vents have all been replaced. The existing air conditioning unit is still behind the church. The unit was ordered in September and hopefully arriving soon. Thursday May 4th, the books will be placed back in the pews, cushions replaced, etc.

Safe Church Program: A reminder for Vestry members to complete their Safe Church segments.

'24' Children's Choir Program: Kathleen Turner presented a program to start a children's choir. There is a strong mission for Children's choir. Two phase – a training choir for 1st and 2nd graders. Then a '24' ensemble for 3rd – 5th graders. There would be an annual membership to belong. Three semesters – fall, spring and summer. A proposal was submitted but Kathleen would need an associate as she cannot do it alone. If launched in the fall, need \$17,000 to start. More kids may mean more parishioners. Kathleen also has experience in grant writing. Rehearsals would be on Wednesdays. Schools to target would include Hesse, Savannah Country Day and Oglethorpe Charter Middle school.

Discussion: Susan Homar thought it was a wonderful dynamic program. Beth McDonald – ditto. Pete – the endowment board could be pitched for possible funding. Not enough to support \$25K but we have the Ned Smith fund. Sally loves the idea.

Susan Homar moved to have the Finance Committee figure out how to fund this new program. Beth McDonald seconded.

Pete Kastner amended: Vestry request the Finance Committee with Hal Evans and Dave Neises take this plan to identify funding for it. Sally seconded. All approved.

Aubrey Browner will become the VPOC for the Music Committee.

Rector's Report: Midweek Meals is looking for a new caterer as Meaghan is going back to teaching. Discussions are ensuing with Casey's Grill in the Village. A sample tasting will be set up. Sticking to a \$10 price point. Semester 1 – Sept 6 – Dec 6th. Semester 2 – Jan 10th – April 24th.

Kelly will be on sabbatical May 25th – Aug 17th, 2023.

Closing Prayer led by Kelly.

Adjourned 6:45 p.m

Next meeting: May 25th @ 4:30 p.m.

