

## **Vestry Meeting Minutes: March 23, 2023**

**Attendance:** Rev. Kelly Steele, Rev. David Wantland, Pete Kastner, Phil Snyder, Susan Homar, MaryLee Beach, Doug Eberle, Regina Holderness, Aubrey Browner, Beth McDonald, Ken Cote, Suzanne Thomas. Absent: Sally Robinson Guests: Debbie Giordan, Kathleen Turner, Dave Sweeterman

**Vestry Covenant** was led by Pete Kastner.

**Mission Vision Discussion:** Kelly asked the group to read passages from “The Traditional Sized Church” from *Beyond Business as Usual*. The article discussed the transitions churches go through as they grow from a pastoral care ministry through transitional changes as quality programming is developed and implemented. Vestry members discussed the piece for 50 minutes generating different perspectives and observations.

**Consent Agenda:** Susan reported that the food drive was a big success. People not from St. Peter’s brought food. Next year we need to incorporate social media and our website to promote it. Pete Kastner and Chuck Koepke from the endowment committee will be looking for assistance to encourage endowment gifts. Susan moved to accept the reports. Doug seconded. All approved.

**Finance:** Hal & Dave ran the Finance Committee meeting in Doug’s absence. As we are only two months into 2023 there is no worry about the budget. Expenses are under budget YTD. Hospitality is under budget as they have subscriptions which are prepaid. MaryLee Beach moved to accept the financial reports. Babs Lutton seconded. All approved.

A gift of \$5000 was donated to St. Peter’s from William Dascombe, a former student of Kathleen Turner. He indicated that \$1000 is to be applied to the Musicales Program and the remaining monies be used to best meet the needs of the church. The Gift Acceptance Committee recommended the remaining \$4000 be applied to the Wheaton Memorial Music Fund (TRF). The Finance Committee concurs with the recommendation.

**MOTION:** That the Vestry approve the distribution of the \$5000 donation from the Lucubrare church with \$1000 to be applied to the Musicales Program and the \$4000 to the Wheaton Memorial Music Fund. Pete Kastner made the motion. Regina Holderness seconded. All approved.

**Memorial Planting:** Randy Stolt would like to install 3 Camellia bushes on the west side of the sanctuary in memory of Val. A 3x4 in. plaque made of bronze would be placed in front of the bushes. The inscription would say In memory of Valerie Stolt. The Tuesday Winers and Keith & Marshiela Gast. There is no cost to St. Peter’s for any part of the instillation. **MOTION:** Susan made the motion to allow this planting. Pete seconded. All approved.

**St. Peter’s Memorial Tree Planting Policy:** Debbie Giordan recommended a new Memorial Tree Planting Policy. Discussion ensued as to how to go about this. Debbie recommends hiring a person to develop a landscape plan so if someone wants to buy a plant/shrub/bush in memory

of a family member they could. If a general plan is created, then plant options would be available. They would pay for it and it's installation.

Pete made the motion: The Vestry will return the proposal to Deb for more information. How will the project be self-funding? Requests answers to questions such as: Who can request a site? Can a site be reserved in advance? Can it be an honorarium as well as a memoriam? Maximum size of plaque? Governance – Memorial Garden Committee or B & G Committee? Debbie to return next month with a final request.

Kelly requested the report/request be returned to the Space Utilization committee.

Babs Lutton seconded. All approved.

**JUST:** Aubrey Browner reviewed the JUST (Justice Unites Savannah Together) mission with the Vestry. Theory being a group can bring more action than individuals so churches have banded together for a cause. People are needed to attend and give voice. Our outreach committee gives to JUST and our members are needed to show up. **The next meeting is April 24<sup>th</sup> 6:45 p.m.** downtown. IF anyone would like to attend, we could carpool. The meeting will be announced in Currents as well.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**HVAC:** The Vestry has been informed St. Peter's is taking a \$130,000 loan, not \$200,000 from SouthState Bank. Dave Sweeterman has been instrumental in securing the loan. 10 yr. 5 ¾% interest. After Easter the work inside the church will begin. Church services will be held in the parish hall until the work is complete. Kelly requests the Senior Warden take a vacation after it is completed.

**SAFE CHURCH:** Rev. David Wantland thanked everyone for submitting their background check forms. Everyone has cleared to date. Everyone will be receiving an e-mail from Betsey Bass regarding the sessions they must complete online. Vestry members must get their sessions going. Phil, Susan & Aubrey have completed their sessions! The goal is to have them all completed by October but it would be wonderful to be finished before then.

**IMMORTALITY:** Rev. David Wantland reported that this Sunday will be the final meeting in the Immortality series. It is to be a joyous meeting discussion how to honor those family members who are dying or who have died.

Kelly starts her sabbatical May 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>. David will be on vacation the week before.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** The Lord's Prayer. 6:25 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: APRIL 27<sup>th</sup> – 4:30 p.m.**