

Summary of Minutes of Vestry Meeting via Zoom

July 21, 2020

Members Present

Dean Robert Price

David Pinson, Senior Warden

Kenny Rogers, Junior Warden

Chrys Meador

Ryan Morris

Janis Adams

Nancy Sanford

Randy Staff

Ashton Tassin

Diane Wiles

Phil Dunnet

Tim Mack

Janet Page Elsea

Also Attending

Adele Ichilian, Clerk

Bob Jones, Treasurer

Absent

The vestry minutes contain the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes of the June 15, 2020 vestry meeting.
2. Accepted the financial report

Minutes of Vestry Meeting

Via Zoom

July 21, 2020

Fr. Rob Price, Dean, opened the meeting with Evening Prayer

Approval of Minutes

Chrys Meador moved that the minutes of June 15, 2020 vestry meeting be approved. Diane Wiles seconded. The motion carried.

Upcoming Attractions

Fr. Rob discussed the following upcoming events:

- a. July 22, noon: Feast of St. Mary Magdalene
- b. July 29, noon: Feast of Mary and Martha of Bethany
- c. August 6, 5:30: Feast of the Transfiguration
- d. August 16, 10:30 service: Pastor Don Parish, Sr. (honorary Canon of the Cathedral) guest preaching, followed by a conversation on race and faith, livestreamed on the Diocesan website at 12:30 pm.
- e. August 18, 7 p.m. Next Vestry meeting

Wardens' Report

Junior Warden - Kenny Rogers

The ytd savings in the areas of utilities, lawncare and janitorial service is more than \$15,000.00

The following items have been completed or scheduled

- Completed: Ceiling of the Great Hall repaired and repainted along with the trim painted. Cost approximately \$9,750.00
- Freezer repaired: Cost of approximately \$500.00
- Scheduled for July 31st: Inspection of smoke and fire alarm system. A changeover of the monitoring company very soon after
- Anticipated: Service on the walk-in cooler

- Anticipated: Proposal from Cox locks for re-keying doors. There are presently (25) different locks with (9) different keys. Goal is to have no more than (5) different keys.
- Ongoing: The insurance claim regarding the roof damage in 2017 is being pursued

Senior Warden - David Pinson

1. Audio Visual Needs: Met with Preston Myers, Audio Visual consultant with Electro Acoustics. There are three main areas under consideration to be completed in two phases:

a. Bringing the Nave up to date – First phase

Currently we have the iPhone focused on the altar and does not move. Existing camera is focused on the pulpit and does not move. Goal is to have (3) cameras that can “pan” the area and to have additional speakers for the choir. Preston feels the existing wires and cables in the organ room can be utilized.

b. Oratory – First phase

The current camera would move to the Oratory and eliminate the need for the computer to project.

c. Great Hall – Second phase

Goal is to have a projector suspended from the ceiling halfway thru the Sunday School area. There would be a total of (6) speakers to the right and left of the stage and on either side of the divider. There would be a camera at the kitchen end for large meetings. An additional camera would be placed in the “Sunday School area” by the double doors going to the foyer if the need is to only use the first bay.

It is felt that the band width we have (approximately 12) is sufficient. Dara Bickham has said that it could go up to about (40) for an additional \$70-\$100.

Because of the great demand on a/v for churches and other organizations, the equipment would not be available for at least 2 – 4 months. Panasonic Cameras are recommended.

Phase 1 would be approximately \$40,000.00 for the Nave and the Oratory, and for pulling the cable for the Great Hall.

Phase 2 would be an additional \$60,000.00 for the remainder of the work in the Great Hall.

If the above work is actualized, a trained tech team will be needed. The system will be controlled by an iPod and finger swipe, making it as simple as possible.

During the interim, it is suggested to use a tri pod to bridge the gap.

The Dean added that the Barna Research Survey reported that of “practicing Christians” (those who said they previously attended church one or more times per month) are now showing that:

1/3 have stayed connected with their church thru online streaming.

An additional 1/3 are shopping churches by watching other than their own churches web site. Of those, ½ watch their former church and as well as new ones. The other ½ are watching a church with a “glitzy” web site.

The final 1/3 have checked out of church altogether.

Finance Report – Bob Jones, Treasurer

Financial Statement - \$264,832 ytd pledges have been received including those that are pre-paid for the remainder of the year. Subtracting those lowers the ytd pledges for the first six months to \$222,068 which is \$19,251 below the budget ytd. Plate is \$2,939.00 which is 70%.

Misc Gifts: The PPE loan of \$79,400 should have full forgiveness.

The previously discussed request for a loan from the Endowment Fund will need to be reconsidered later in the year and may be postponed until 2021.

There have been several additional savings in payroll due to reduction on the Dean's Salary (with the Diocesan office picking up the difference), Fr. Ryan and Nina Sanders' leaving.

The Audit was begun on July 20th and will be \$13,500.00.

Dara is doing an analysis of pledges so that we can anticipate the next six months.

Nancy Sanford reported that three grants applied for have been awarded:

- \$55,000.00 by the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), CARES (COVID-19 Emergency Funds). Funds enable St. Matthew's Food Pantry Ministry to expand services based on current need, through distributing emergency food to families with children during the COVID-19 crisis.
- \$30,000.00 by the EFSP, Phase 37 for groceries distributed through our existing Daily Bread Outreach and Thursday Food Pantry.
- \$10,000.00 awarded by the Episcopal Foundation of Dallas for groceries/fresh produce distributed through our existing Daily Bread Outreach and Thursday Food Pantry.

Discussion Items

1. The Dean's intention is that on the 1st Sunday of October, the 8:00 am service will be live streamed from the Nave and the 10:30 am service will be on the lawn.
2. When the weather is cooler, Evensong will be celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 4:00 pm on the grass in conjunction with Cathedral Arts.
3. The Dean feels that Christmas will definitely be outdoors. A Planning Committee will be appointed.
4. Outreach: Nancy Sanford is leading St. Matthew's Food Pantry Ministry. In efforts to expand our feeding programs to meet the current emergency food needs, she reported that St. Matthew's is becoming a "Partner Agency" with Crossroads Community Services, a sub-distributor of North Texas Food Bank and Feeding America. With access to cheaper food and greater quantity of supply, St. Matthew's can develop a new "arm" of emergency service to our community's families with children. This program

is designed as a “Drive-Through” from the front of the Cathedral. Funding for this program has been awarded through the EFSP CARES grant. The 1st of two installments has been received. The grant spending period runs from May 31, 2020 - May 31, 2021. The distribution period will run from approximately August 31, 2021-August 31, 2021. 50 families from Gateway of Grace will be pre-registered as our first “Drive-Through” recipients, with anticipated growth as we reach out further into our community through our “Children in Need Task Force” and word of mouth.

Through Daily Bread Outreach and Thursday Food Pantry they continue to build relationships with our neighbors. The number of people served continues to increase and the impact they are making in our East Dallas community is significant. Currently they are giving out (215) bags of groceries per week, 5 days a week, not including bags of fresh produce, hot meals and cold water. The clothes distribution, which had to be suspended, restarted the previous week and is quickly blessing people with a change of clean clothes each week.

They have seen a big shift in volunteers. Neighborhood friends, who made up 50% of our volunteers, were asked to take a pause until the threat of COVID passed. At the same time church members, desiring to serve, have stepped forward.

5. Future Staffing: Budget Season is approaching this Fall.

During the second half of 2021 the Dean wants to bring back staffing levels. He has no one in mind at this time but wants the vestry to be considering options.

Option (1) Young adult ministry. Hire a youth minister in their mid to late 20’s to grow the young adult ministry.

Option (2) Look for an ordained priest, possibly a curate or a “priest associate” for evangelism.

An ordained young associate priest who could assist the Dean was favored by many members. Suggestion offered that a timeline should be established and ways to finance the type of person needed. The Bishop’s plan has the Dean staying in his Diocesan position thru 2021. That might provide the funds to bring someone on board for the second half of 2021.

Stewardship: The Diocese has a membership for a Webinar discussing best practices during this time that the Dean said he would view.

Tim Mack, Real Estate Development

Tim Mack reported that TCR is still interested in the project and is cautiously optimistic, but not building anything at this time. Best forecast would be mid-2021.

There being no further business, Tim Mack moved to adjourn the meeting. Ryan Morris seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Adele Ichilian, Clerk