Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the St. David’s Vestry
August 27, 2019

Vestry Attendance: Doug Bell, Christine Burdell, Linda Gebhard, Christine Gorychka, Scott Hendrix, Jennifer Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, Sarah Kapostasy, Eric Malnassy, Kari Moore, Martha Newton, Lee Parker, Joy Philpott, Martha Salazar, and Mav Turner

Also present were Rector the Rev. Chuck Treadwell, The Rev. Katie Wright, Parish Administrator Jim Lamm, and Curate-the Rev. Cameron Spoor.

Senior Warden Kari Moore called the meeting to order and Fr. Chuck led the group through the opening sentences of the Compline service.

The Vestry approved the minutes from the July 23, 2019 meeting.

Chris Gorychka presented the Finance Committee report. She asked for questions regarding the financial reports and encouraged members to feel free to send future questions to her or Jim Lamm.

Next, Chris moved to accept a resolution to add Jim Lamm as a signatory to the Wells Fargo account. Lee Parker seconded and the resolution passed:

WHEREAS, the Vestry of St. David’s Episcopal Church in Austin, TX has determined it to be in the best interest of the Church to update the signers on its accounts at Wells Fargo Bank;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following shall be added as a signatory to said accounts: James Lamm, Parish Administrator.

THE UNDERSIGNED hereby certifies that she is the duly elected, qualified and acting clerk of the Vestry of St. David’s Episcopal Church (“The Church”) and that the foregoing resolution was submitted to and approved and adopted by the Vestry at a meeting held on August 27, 2019, and that said resolution is now in full force and effect without modification or recession as permitted under the Canons of the Church. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto set her hand effective this 27th day of August, 2019.

Chris explained that she will receive an audit update by September 6 and that she will present it to the Finance Committee on September 18.

The Finance Committee finalized a policy for internal financial controls. The committee determined that check payments over $5,000 will require a second signature. Also, electronic transfers greater than $5,000 will require Jim to have the Accounting Manager sign off on the transfer and then Kari or Chris will need to approve the transaction. The policy will not pertain to payroll.

Fr. Chuck and members welcomed Katie Wright back from her sabbatical. Katie shared that she spent 2/3 of her time traveling to eight countries and 4 states and she found a sense of joy and wonder in all God’s works. Fr. Chuck applauded the staff’s work during Katie’s absence.

Fr. Chuck presented his Rector’s Report. The recent ministry trip to Germany went very well thanks in large part to the good work of Ulrike Miller.
Regarding personnel, we are almost fully staffed with only one open position for the Day School. Kimberle Smith is the new Accounting Manager. She brings good experience from her previous work for MDA and the Texas Association for the Blind. She is integrating well with staff and reviewing balance sheets and processes. She will attend ACS training soon.

The trip to Malawi was a great success. The group formed strong relationships and made bricks to rebuild homes lost in the recent flood. We must continue to build relationships and have regular person-to-person contact. Fr. Chuck would like to bring six to 10 people from Malawi to St. David’s. Linda Gebhard has noticed the improved relationships and encouraged us to keep up the momentum. Tom Gebhard and Cameron Spoor are going to work with the World Commission Board and Warm Heart to advance the ministry.

Fr. Chuck and others attended the city of Austin’s recent forum on the new homeless policy, which affects our neighbors. The new policy will make homelessness more visible. Also, the ARCH’s services are changing. The ARCH will reduce its number of beds to 130 from 180, and eliminate medication services. The city asked the Trinity Center to acquire these services, but it declined since its current model is working well. The city will not close day services until they identify a replacement. The city will have a new center on Ben White. Fr. Chuck and others at St. David’s are concerned about the potential of our block becoming a homeless campground and have requested an exemption to prohibit camping on the sidewalk near the school. Kelli McLaughlin, Director of St. David's Day School, and others are finding solutions, such as the possibility of painting art on the glass that separates the children’s play area from the sidewalk. We have a good relationship with our Trinity Center clients and they have been understanding. We have seen an increase in Trinity Center clients since the ARCH changes. Overall, Fr. Chuck says the city is committed to finding compassionate solutions based on extensive research. Our goal is to balance hospitality and safety. Our homeless neighbors are welcome to a free small plate breakfast on Sunday mornings.

Next month, Fr. Chuck will review the accountability chart, which is part of the staff’s Traction initiative. Reporting lines will be task-oriented, which is different than the previous organization chart. Chad’s new title will be Chief of Staff and he will oversee the Traction process. Chad will have five or six direct reports and Fr. Chuck will have four. The Accounting Manager reports to Chad and not to the Parish Administrator, so we will have two channels of financial accountability. There are two goals for the Executive Team: 1) increase the average weekly attendance (not just worship), and 2) increase giving. Traction is only being implemented with staff, but may expand in the future.

Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski and Fr. Chuck are studying alternative liturgy for Good Friday and will share their findings with the Bishop.

Kari opened the floor to old and new business. She asked the Vestry to serve at the Trinity Center on September 15.

Fr. Chuck presented a resolution of support for ordination to the priesthood of Cameron Spoor. Sara Kapostasy moved to adopt the resolution, Chris Gorychka seconded, and it was approved.
Mav shared a property update. Lori Blewett, Director of Communications, is working on a proposal for updated visuals. Mav received a request for new furniture in the guild room and would like recommendations and participation from the Vestry.

Kari presented Resolutions of Commendation for the Rev. Chad McCall, Lowell Keig and Frank Baldwin who absorbed many extra duties during recent staff transitions (Addendum A). Doug moved to adopt the resolutions, Joy seconded, and the motion passed.

Kari presented a Building Committee update. We signed the Square One contract. Fr. Chuck, Jim, and Eric will create a small committee that will serve as the day-to-day contact with Square One to make quick decisions. The next step is to solicit bids from architecture and design firms. It will be nine to 12 months before construction starts.

The next Vestry meeting is September 24, 2019. Kari announced that the October Vestry meeting will move to October 15.

Other Upcoming Dates:

- September 22, 5-7 p.m. Sumners Legacy Society Annual Gathering at Fall Creek Vineyards in Driftwood
- October 27 Harvest Sunday
- November 17, 12:30 p.m. Lunch with Bishop Kai Ryan

Fr. Chuck led the Vestry in Compline’s closing prayers and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Burdell
Clerk
ADDENDUM A

1. Resolution of Commendation of Lowell Keig

WHEREAS, Lowell Keig, in his capacity of Chancellor for St. David’s Episcopal Church, has volunteered significant time this year in assisting the church with various legal matters; and

WHEREAS, Lowell Keig has provided exceptional guidance to the church; and

WHEREAS, we, the Vestry, wish to express our deep gratitude for the work that Lowell Keig has done for the church;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Vestry commends Lowell Keig for his faithful service to St. David’s Episcopal Church.

2. Resolution of Commendation of the Rev. Chad McCall

WHEREAS, the Rev. Chad McCall recently served as the acting Parish Administrator of St. David’s Episcopal Church, in addition to his regular duties at the church; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Chad McCall provided exceptional leadership and guidance to the church during that time; and

WHEREAS, we, the Vestry, wish to express our deep gratitude for the work that the Rev. Chad McCall has done for the church;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Vestry commends the Rev. Chad McCall for his faithful service to St. David’s Episcopal Church.

3. Resolution of Commendation of Frank Baldwin

WHEREAS, Frank Baldwin has volunteered significant time this year in assisting St. David’s Episcopal Church with various financial matters in addition to his regular volunteer work for the church; and

WHEREAS, Frank Baldwin has provided exceptional services to the church; and

WHEREAS, we, the Vestry, wish to express our deep gratitude for the work that Frank Baldwin has done for the church;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Vestry commends Frank Baldwin for his faithful service to St. David’s Episcopal Church.