Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the St. David’s Vestry  
March 24, 2020


Also present by Zoom were the Rector, Rev. Dr. Chuck Treadwell; Associate Rector, Rev. Katie Wright; Curate, Rev. Cameron Spoor; and Parish Administrator, Jim Lamm.

Senior Warden Eric Malnassy called the meeting to order and Fr. Chuck led the group through the first half of the Compline service.

The Vestry approved the minutes from the February 25, 2020 meeting, subject to the correction of a typographical error.

Linda Gebhard presented a brief Junior Warden’s report.

Lee Parker and Jim Lamm presented the report of the Finance Committee. Jim presented the February financial report and explained that while the church’s financial position to date was still strong, the Covid-19 pandemic causes uncertainty for the future. Jim, Lee, and Fr. Chuck will meet to discuss how a prolonged pandemic might affect the church budget. Cash on hand and expected revenue from monthly giving commitments will allow the church to pay salary and benefits for the entire staff through the end of April, at least.

Lee presented the following budget-amendment recommendation from the Finance Committee, made to fix miscalculations in the initial budgeting process:

The Finance Committee recommends that the Vestry approve an increase in the 2020 budget of $3639.06 which will restore the $3000 to the Children’s Ministry budget for Sunday School Teachers (173644) and add $639.06 to the Clergy Wages (163512).

The amendment passed unanimously.

Fr. Chuck presented the Rector’s Report. He first assured the Vestry that the church is following all CDC, state, and city guidelines on Covid-19. Beginning Wednesday, March 25, the church building will be closed. Trinity Center, the St. David’s Day School, and Next to New are also closed. All church staff who can work remotely are doing so. Trinity Center Executive Director Irit Umani is working with other service providers to persuade the city to open the Palmer Events Center to our homeless neighbors.

The church’s worship committee is discussing the transition to online worship. We will probably limit the number of people in the sanctuary to five and some clergy or musicians potentially could broadcast from home.

The clergy are proactively making pastoral calls. The clergy are asking the Vestry to participate in the Better Together phone tree. Each Vestry member will receive a list of parishioners to check in on.
The church is continuing to pay hourly staff who work regular shifts their usual wage. The hourly staff members who do not work a set schedule will be paid for the average of their usual monthly or weekly work. Next week there will be a Zoom meeting of all building staff, and Chuck would like to tell the staff that the church will pay them through April at least. The clergy does not want to ask anyone to take vacation or sick leave at this point.

Chef Ray is working on a plan for offering food to go. In response to a question about building security, Jim Lamm responded that the building has an alarm system and that facilities director Michael Holder will come in every few days to check on things.

Lee suggested that we offer more ways for parishioners to worship remotely because some may not have Internet or Facebook. He suggested the ability to call in. Chuck pointed out that a person with Internet but without a Facebook account can stream the service through a link on the church website.

Chuck raised the issue of conducting a virtual Eucharist. The current position of the Episcopal Church is that it should not be done unless parishioners have consecrated bread and wine at home. If the pandemic lasts a long time, this issue may resurface.

Turning to the Traction scorecard, Chuck explained that the church is keeping track of how many people are watching services online. So far, over 1,000 people have viewed every Sunday’s liturgy, though not necessarily live.

Chuck reported that he probably will not take a sabbatical this summer, as expected. He will reevaluate when the pandemic’s effects are clearer.

Eric led a discussion on assignment of new members to Vestry standing committees. He will work with Christine to get the committee list updated.

Sarah Kapostasy gave a report on the St. David’s Day School. Following the lead of AISD, the school will be closed through April 3 at least. The school board unanimously selected Leigh Moss to be the new head of school, and she has accepted the position. Ms. Moss is already up and running and has been part of the Covid-19 school-closure discussions.

Sarah then presented the following resolution to permit the school to suspend its monthly payment to the church as long as it remains closed:

RESOLVED, that the Vestry hereby:

Approves a temporary suspension of the monthly payment made by the St. David’s Day School to the church in the amount of $1,026 if the Day School remains closed during the months of April and/or May.

The resolution passed unanimously.

Eric presented the following resolution relating to disbursements for debt service by the St. David’s Foundation:
Whereas the foundation on December 31 had a value of $6,790,642, and whereas the 13 quarter average value is $6,190,227 and whereas this board set a distribution percentage of 4.25% of the 13 quarter average for debt service and donor directed funds, the 2020 distribution for debt service will be $227,117. The debt service portion of the distribution will be made in 4 equal installments of $56,779.25 in April, July, October and December. The donor directed portion of $22,321 will be made as requested by St. David’s church. An amount of $8,328 based upon 4.25% of the December 31 value is approved for distribution from the Wendlant/Barclay fund for expenses of this foundation.

After discussion, the resolution was adopted.

Cameron Spoor reported on the St. David’s Day of Service, which is currently planned for Saturday, May 2nd. The Vestry discussed whether to reschedule it for the summer or fall. Cameron anticipates having a meeting with stakeholders later this week to make a determination.

Jennifer Joslyn-Siemiatkoski led a review of the Safeguarding God’s People policies.

Upcoming dates:
April 22 Finance Committee (Zoom)
April 28 Vestry Meeting (Zoom)
May 2 Day of Service (likely to change)

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

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Newton
Clerk