

## ST. DAVID'S VESTRY MINUTES

February 23, 2016

Vestry Attendance: Senior Warden Robert Summers, Junior Warden Gustavo Hernandez, Anthony Chapple, Bob Davis, Charles Moody, Diane Mazuca, Eric Leibrock, Janet Sawyer, Mike Gerber, Jennifer Glass, Kris Monson, Marisa Gilmore, Nan Hazel, and Paul Brownell. Shiloh Daniel was present by telephone.

Terry Nathan and Mary Keenan were also present.

Robert called the meeting to order and led an opening prayer. He introduced Mary Keenan, a seminarian and candidate for ordination to the diaconate and moved that the Vestry endorse her. Nan seconded the motion and the Vestry approved unanimously. Mary left the meeting.

The minutes for January 19, 2016 and January 31, 2016 were approved (with a spelling correction to the January 19 minutes) on a motion by Diane, seconded by Kris.

Mike presented the Finance Committee Report. Pledges for 2016 are about \$170,000 below the Vestry's budget goal. The church is currently borrowing from the garage to make up the gap but this short-term borrowing cannot continue beyond June. Terry is looking at loan options for longer term borrowing as a possible solution. Father Chuck's arrival may provide more energy and enthusiasm to the church membership and may increase pledges, but the Vestry needs to know that the church faces a serious cash flow problem.

In addition, early estimates for repairing the west wall indicate that the cost will exceed the fund accumulated by Next-to-New contributions to preserve the historic church by approximately \$150,000, further exacerbating the shortfall in pledges for 2016.

Robert presented the Vestry with an "Analysis of Revenues and Expenses" as of January 2016 in which a figure of \$245,477 had been inserted as "Anticipated Pledges." That figure represents the actual shortfall in pledges for 2016, but it is not realistic to assume that St. David's is actually "anticipating" additional pledges in that amount. The Vestry debated how to report the deficit and decided that the figure for "anticipated pledges" should be removed so that the deficit is apparent.

Gustavo gave the Stewardship Committee Report. There have been fewer pledges in 2016, although the average pledge was higher. He asked all vestry members to support April in making calls to people who have not yet made a pledge. April has created a database of background information for persons making these calls. Mike noted that, when he made these calls, people expressed concern about the transition.

Janet reported on the transition team's work. April has planned eleven events to help Father Chuck meet as many of the congregation as possible during the first 60 days of his service at St David's. Scheduling is underway.

Eric reported on the St. David's artifacts subcommittee. Janet Sawyer (chair), Candace Volz, Virginia Phillips, and Jane Maxwell are members. The subcommittee has created a set of guidelines for accepting donations. Nan suggested amending the guidelines to make clear that St. David's will not assign a value to any gift. Diane moved that the guidelines, as amended, be adopted. Anthony seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Eric also reported on installation of the first speaker for the new sound system. Two more speakers will be installed. Eric explained that hiding the speakers in the ceiling would have been possible but would have required structural changes. The property committee decided to defer structural changes until the west wall was repaired. This new sound system is state-of-the-art and should dramatically improve sound quality. The historic sanctuary's carpet is also going to be removed. The present plan is to leave the wooden floor in place to improve the acoustics of the historical sanctuary and to clean, but not refinish the floor. Some repairs may be necessary.

The west wall of the historic sanctuary is unstable and has slowly shifted over its more than one-hundred-fifty-year history. Terry has signed a contract for a structural feasibility study to develop a design-and-cost estimate that will cost about \$37730. Marc Bove, a former vestry member, is overseeing the study without pay. The design should be complete in July and presented to the Vestry before being submitted for bid. We hope to complete construction before Christmas.

Robert presented a letter of support certifying that Paul Skeith is worthy to be ordained as a deacon. Gustavo seconded approval. The Vestry approved by unanimous consent. Minerva Skeith will attend the Seminary of the Southwest beginning this fall.

Robert moved that the Vestry approve Sheri McIntire as a Trinity Center Board nominee. Diane seconded and the vestry approved unanimously.

Nan Hazel was approved to remain Vestry liaison for Next -to-New. Kris will be the Vestry representative to the Day School, which is in the process of looking for a new Director since Laura Faulk is retiring. Other assignments will be made later.

Gustavo recommended that Katie ask the staff to brainstorm about ways to build community at St. David's. Robert proposed that as a resolution. The resolution passed unanimously. Gustavo also recommended that Community of Hope members and Sunday School teachers be recognized by having their pictures put up in the church halls. That motion passed unanimously.

Robert announced that Peter Casparian will continue serving at St. David's through April and may return in the fall if money is available. Robert and Terry also asked vestry members to volunteer as greeters for SXSW performances at the church from March 15 through 19. Vestry members should contact Terry for scheduling.

The Vestry approved making attendance at meetings by telephone available, when necessary.

Katie's last day as *locum tenens* is March 13. Robert asked that as many vestry members as

possible be present at the 9:00 service in the historic sanctuary on March 13 to recognize her service to St. David's and present her with a gift. Several gift suggestions were made.

Bob reported that the Environmental Guild is supporting an effort to strengthen local bee colonies.

Mike mentioned the Barbara Jordan event on April 26 and urged vestry participation.

The next vestry meeting is **March 29, 2016** and the vestry retreat is on **April 15-16, 2016**.

Robert dismissed the meeting at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanneska Hazel, Clerk of the Vestry with the welcome assistance of Paul Brownell