

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

Vestry Attendance: Senior Warden Robert Sumners, Junior Warden Gustavo Hernandez, Bob Davis, Nan Hazel, Kari Moore, Mike Gerber, Diane Mazuca, Eric Leibrock, Janet Sawyer, Shiloh Daniel, Jennifer Glass, and Kris Monson

Attending by phone: Paul Brownell

Also present: Rev. Chuck Treadwell, Rev. Katie Wright, Terry Nathan, Jenny Campbell, and Jeanie Garrett.

Robert called the meeting to order. Chuck led the Vestry in the opening sentences of the Compline service.

Chuck introduced Jenny Campbell, our new youth director at St. David's. Jenny told the Vestry something about her background and the Vestry shared with her their best secrets about living in Austin. Jenny then left the meeting

Robert then introduced Jeanie Garret, the Director of Communication at St. David's. She told the Vestry that she had been Director of Communications for 8 ½ years. She has two staff members who work with her on communications—Katie Keenan, who does graphic design and who designed our church website and Mary Ashton, who does twitter, posts on facebook for the church, and generally handles social media. Jeanie primarily handles writing such as the e-newsletter and the newsletters from the different ministries. She fields media questions and coordinates the blogs and podcasts for the St. David's website. She also makes sure that the sermons and adult education classes are posted on the website after each Sunday's services. She introduced the Vestry to the many popular features of the website—such as the maps for getting to the church on race days—and about her hopes for improving communications between St. David's and its congregants and the community at large, such as developing an app specifically for St. David's to make it easier to keep up with the church's activities.

The minutes for our July 26, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Eric had a correction to the report of the Property Committee. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Eric reported on the results of the engineers' investigation of the condition of the west wall of the historic church and on efforts to get contractors to bid on the work that needs to be done to stabilize the historic church's structure. There are not many contractors who do this type of work. Eric also reported that the floor covering in Grace Parlor would be replaced and the room repainted. Money for this work will come from wedding funds.

Mike reported for the finance committee. The new member, Christine Nalle, is a great addition to the committee. It is less likely that St. David's will need a loan in 2016 to cover the shortfall in the budget, but the finance committee is determined that the church will not be dependent on a special request to meet its budget for 2017. Mike said that the money raised in stewardship will not necessarily grow next year while most of the expenses of the church—staff, building maintenance, mortgage payments—will continue at about the same level. Mike said that the finance committee would be framing its budget in October for presentation to the Vestry. Mike and Chuck agreed that St. David's would have a balanced budget for 2017.

The Vestry discussed whether to amend the bylaws to make it clear that a member of the St. David's staff could not serve concurrently as a member of the Vestry. Amending the bylaws requires approval by the congregation at the annual meeting and by the Bishop. The Vestry agreed that the bylaws should be amended. Kris will chair a committee to review the bylaws to see if other changes need to be made and propose revisions for the Vestry to consider by the next meeting. Chuck suggested that some nonlawyers volunteer to serve on Kris's committee.

Chuck gave his Rector's report. He talked primarily about his trip to Malawi and about the projects supported by St. David's there. He said that he had touched by the experience of seeing feeding and literacy programs, churches being built, and water wells being drilled. He reported that Bishop Alinafi had issued an invitation for St. David's to come to Malawi in 2018 and that he hoped that would happen. He also reported on an assessment tool that Bishop Andy Doyle had created to help churches in the Diocese determine where they are and what they need to do to grow. He passed out a hard copy of the assessment. Terry Nathan said that he would send around an electronic version of the assessment that would be easier for the Vestry to work with.

The Vestry considered whether to nominate a new member to fill the vacancy left by Anthony Chapple's resignation to take a St. David's staff position to serve until January when St. David's, at its annual meeting, would elect new Vestry members. Diane moved that the Vestry not fill the vacancy, Bob seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Nan gave a report on Next to New's renovation, scheduled to begin in September and completed by December. When the renovation is complete, Next to New will need volunteers from St. David's to re-set and reconfigure the store in its new space. She proposed that this could serve as a "one church/one project" event. Gus asked that Next to New prepare as complete a list of the work that will need to be done, the numbers of people that could be used on this project, proposed work shifts, and special equipment that might be useful to have so that St. David's could prepare for this event.

The Vestry's next meeting is September 27, 2016.

The Vestry's Action Items are:

Kris Monson will present proposed changes to the bylaws at the next meeting

The Vestry will review Bishop Doyle's assessment tool before the next meeting.

The Vestry will publish its decision not to fill the short-term vacancy left by Anthony Chapple's resignation.

St. David's 2016 One Church/One Project will be re-setting and re-configuring Next to New in December after the store's renovation is completed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nanneska Hazel, Clerk of the Vestry