

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis
Vestry Meeting
October 12, 7:00-9:00 pm via Zoom
approved minutes

Present: Rector Pamela Dolan, Josy Miller, Stan Forbes, Bob Polkinghorn, Elise Keddie, Jessie Ann Owens, Ann Liu, Sarah Conning, Janet Thompson, Julie Knudsen, Elizabeth Young, Rev. Margaret Grayden

Absent: Nick Buxton (Gabe Avila is no longer on the Vestry)

I. Opening Prayer/Spiritual Practice

Pamela asked members of the Vestry to read <https://stlukesdurham.org/2020/07/11/rector-reflection-july-11-2020/> in advance of the meeting; she shared a powerpoint meditation on three selections from Scripture.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18aABexIssfgpCbGMslRdcPt5Ptt_AnF0/view

II. ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Draft Agenda (Josy) M/S/P as amended

III. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes of September 14 meeting (Josy) M/S/P

IV. REPORT: September financial statement

Julie expressed concern about the decrease in pledge income for September (30% below expected).

V. ACTION ITEM: Buildings and Grounds Proposal for Children's Playground; ADDED ITEM Tree Trimming Proposal

Stan presented the motion to fund a final step in completing the children's playground project, to be funded through the Craft Fair proceeds, as well as from two gifts totaling \$3000 [please note that this figure comes from a revised proposal and not the original proposal included in the Vestry packet] and a credit from the vendor. It would be prudent to discuss the purposes for funds from future craft fairs; this fund contributed to the playground in the past and this use is appropriate. M/S/P

There was a long discussion of the tree trimming proposal, which had been received too late for thorough vetting through the usual process. Concerns included: safety; responsibility for caring for God's creation and our ongoing efforts to address the redwood canker; budget and available funding in the 2020 budget; shifting at least a portion of the cost of roof repair to the Capital Reserve (or keep that money for major systems, not ongoing maintenance); the actual cost for tree trimming frequently coming in in excess of what was budgeted. The motion to defer the request passed (6 to 4). Julie will follow up with Janet on budgeting for various categories of Buildings and Grounds expenses.

VI. REPORT: SJ&O Topics

Bob presented SJ&O's draft guidelines for awarding grants; Josy expressed gratitude for the quality of work on guidelines. The implementation is on hold for now, pending the upcoming facilitation and discussion of outreach. Following discussion at SJ&O, which advised against

taking on the adoption of an apartment for IRWS at this time, clarification of the significant commitment of time, and further conversations with Lynn Zender and Janet Lane, Bob wrote to IRWS that St. Martin's could not adopt an apartment but stood ready to provide other kinds of assistance.

VII. ACTION: Approve the formation of a committee to recommend special plates
Bob proposed a new process for determining Christmas and Easter plates, taking into consideration the proposal by SJ&O. M/S/P

VIII. REPORT/DISCUSSION: Facilitation process and "pausing" SJ&O
Pamela expressed her sense that it was right to bring in outside mediator, especially given the larger context (unprecedented stress and anxiety even before COVID, which only increased after the death of George Floyd, the BLM protests and backlash, the election season ramp-up, the threats to democracy etc.). Context is important. At the local level of this church, she identified recurring conflict, often around money, that is systemic. The goal is to pause and suspend our assumptions, to consider what we can let go in order to make space for the work of creating something new. We are in the midst of an ongoing, acute phase; the "new normal" is indefinite uncertainty, ambiguous loss, a lack of resolution. While SJ&O is the current focus, it is not the only aspect of our communal life being paused; we have moved from two services to one, we no longer offer Eucharistic Visitor, or Healing Ministry services, for example. We had to pause what we were doing (worshipping together) and reinvent new ways of worshipping. We need to be able to mourn the loss of life and the loss of life as we know it. It is especially critical now to work to create a healthy system; the present conflict is draining for everyone.

IX. REPORT: Regathering Task Force
Pamela presented a brief report. The first outdoor service had 14 in attendance; there was extremely detailed planning for safety. A document concerning procedures for use of the campus by outside groups was circulated after the meeting.

X. REPORT: Stewardship Committee
Josy reported on a letter going out to the entire congregation concerning year-round stewardship and the various currencies.

XI. DISCUSSION: Draft Vestry Committees Document
Josy led a brief discussion of Elizabeth's revision to the Vestry Committee document. Vestry members should carefully review the document and send comments back to Josy and Elizabeth.

XII. REPORT: Nominating committee, Vestry and Delegate nominations
Janet gave an update on progress thus far. There are helpful links concerning Vestry roles and responsibilities on the Episcopal Foundation website. The committee will be announcing a call for nominations. The goal is a slate that is diverse and balanced and broadly representative of the congregation.

XIII. ADDED: SPECIAL MEETING FOR ELECTION RESPONSE

A group of faith community leaders in Davis is meeting to consider the role of faith communities in dealing with the election and its possible aftermath. There will be a special meeting of the Vestry to consider the issues before the end of October.

XIV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Josy

XV. Closing Prayer

Margaret

Exhibits

Draft Minutes of September 14 meeting

September 2020 financial report

Proposal from Buildings and Grounds for Children's Playground (original proposal; revised proposal will be circulated to Vestry)

Proposed motion from Budget and Finance

SJ&O draft grant guidelines

Email from Bob re IRWS

SJ&O proposal for special plates

Proposed motion for special plates process

Rector's Report

Late: Proposal for Tree Trimming

Late: Vestry committee

Reports for the Consent agenda

Buildings and Grounds Report

Worship Commission Minutes