

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis
Vestry Meeting
November 9, 2020, 7:00-9:00 pm via Zoom
approved minutes as amended

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

Absent: Stan Forbes

Visitor: Beth Robbins

Guest: Betsey Monnot (first part of the meeting)

I. Opening Prayer/Spiritual Practice

Rev. Betsey Monnot led a brief guided meditation.

II. FACILITATION

Rev. Betsey Monnot began by identifying the presenting issue (no shared vision for the ministry of social justice and outreach, the “ministry of mercy and justice”), as well as underlying issues of authority, control, and communication. Other issues to be considered include governance structures and communication.

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

Josy

IV. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes of October 12 and October 24 meetings (Josy)

M/S/P (2 abstentions for October 24 minutes)

V. REPORT: October financial statement (Julie)

The revenue situation improved somewhat. A leak has been identified that should address the unusually high water bills. St. Martin’s will file a claim before November 16 in the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy proceedings, as required by the Bishop’s office, in order to secure partial protection against possible future claims.

VI. REPORT: Audit Results (Julie)

The results of the audit were positive. There are items that need to be completed: complete the personnel handbook, implement policies regarding confidentiality, implement a whistle blower policy, establish a policy for document retention. By consensus the Vestry received the full audit report.

VII. REPORT: Nominating committee, Vestry and Delegate nominations (Janet)

Janet described the process for communicating that nominations for Vestry and for convention delegates are welcome. The Vestry needs a roster of people who have agreed to serve if chosen for the slate by the December meeting. The committee shared 12-14 names, which will be reviewed by clergy for possible pastoral concerns; various members of the Vestry agreed to reach out to these individuals and to report

back to Janet. The goal is a balanced and diverse slate, broadly representative of the parish.

VIII. ACTION ITEM: SJ&O Recommendations for Matthew 25 grant program (Bob)

Bob presented the recommendation by SJ&O for the 2020 Matthew 25 grant program and briefly reviewed the SJO decision process. On behalf of the Vestry he expressed appreciation for the hard work by the committee. After a motion and second to approve the grant recommendation as submitted, there was extensive discussion. Specific issues of concern included: a) one of the awardees did not meet the published guidelines (the budget exceeded \$1 million); b) an application was received after the published deadline; c) there is generally little documentation, e.g., tax statements, audited budget reports, to support the requests. Some of these issues were communicated to members of SJ&O during their deliberations and explanations for the recommendations were provided. A suggestion was offered that funding for international organizations could be given to Episcopal Relief and Development to distribute as opposed to individual agencies.

Given the issues noted above, a motion was offered and seconded to table the vote on the 2020 grant recommendations until the December meeting. The motion failed (1 in favor, 7 opposed, 2 abstain). The original motion passed (8 in favor, 2 opposed).

IX. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Josy M/S/P

X. Closing Prayer

Margaret

Exhibits

Proposed Process for Facilitation

Draft Minutes of October 12 and 24 meetings

October 2020 financial report

2019 Audit

SJ&O Recommendations for Matthew 25 Grants

Reports for the Consent agenda

Stewardship Committee Report (forthcoming)

Buildings and Grounds Report

Worship Commission Minutes

Ministry Council Minutes

Christian Formation Minutes

ADDENDUM:

Report on Vestry Vote conducted by email (November 16, 2020)

Motion (Bob Polkinghorn): I move, on behalf of the Christmas Plate Nomination Review Committee, to designate Suicide Prevention of Yolo County as the recipient of the Episcopal Church of St Martin 2020 Christmas Plate. Seconded: Jessie Ann

Background: The Christmas Plate Nomination Review Committee was formed to consider parish-wide nominations for receiving the 2020 Christmas Plate donations. The committee included Steve Reynolds (at-large), Janet Thompson (Vestry), and Diana Glick (SJO). Four nominations were received from parishioners - Suicide Prevention of Yolo County, YIIN/Belfry (as one nomination), YIIN, and IRWS. All worthy organizations. After discussion, the committee unanimously recommended that the 2020 Christmas Plate be awarded to Suicide Prevention of Yolo County. They asked me, as liaison to the committee, to forward their recommendation to you for consideration.

The Vestry voted unanimously to approve the recommendation of the Special Plates committee to designate Suicide Prevention of Yolo County for the Christmas plate. Given this year's special circumstances (no in-person worship), this fundraising appeal will also include the Advent Project and will run through Epiphany.