

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis  
Vestry Meeting  
December 14, 2020, 7:00-9:00 pm via Zoom

approved minutes

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

I. Opening Prayer/Spiritual Practice

Pamela led a meditation on Isaiah 61:1.

II. ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Draft Agenda (Josy)

M amended/S/P

III. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes of November 9 meeting (Josy)

M/S/P as amended. Josy noted that in the future minutes will record, for votes that are not unanimous, how each member voted. Vestry meetings are open, votes are not confidential, and transparency is important.

IV. REPORT AND UPDATE: Belfry Activities

visitor: Joel Jorgensen, volunteer (joel@levn.org) Joel presented an update on Belfry activities. (St. Martin's is a sponsoring organization.) There is weekly distance worship on Thursdays. There is a pantry to provide essentials to needy students. A peer minister is leading an abolitionist quilting group (quilts will be sent to prisoners). Belfry is providing care packages to support students, especially during tough times (many are food and housing insecure). Pamela suggested that there should be a follow-up discussion about how St. Martin's might be able to help, beyond the resources now provided.

V. REPORT: Updates on Vestry/Ministry Council Retreat; Annual Meeting (Pamela)

Pamela reported on the status of the Annual Meeting, which will have to be virtual, in light of the pandemic. It will be need to be legal according to our by-laws and we are seeking guidance from the Diocese concerning the Church's canons.

VI. ACTION ITEM: Approval of a policy for fundraising (Bob)

In Bob's absence, Jessie presented a proposal for a policy concerning fundraising. There have been problems with last-minute requests, conflicting appeals. M/S/P

VII. ACTION ITEM: Selection of Vestry and Delegate nominations (Janet)

Janet presented a slate of candidates: Kimo Kimokeo, David Martin, Christopher Reynolds, Honna Steissberg. The slate was approved. M/S/P Gabe's slot still needs to be filled: Janet welcomes suggestions before the next meeting. There are six self-

nominations for convention delegate; we need three to five additional names, with a focus on younger members. There was an expression of gratitude to members of the nominating committee (the outgoing members of the Vestry) for the excellent process used this year. There was consensus that the idea of a nominating committee consisting of outgoing members was a good one and should be continued in the future. There needs to be attention given to archiving names of past members of the Vestry.

VIII. UPDATE: Vestry/SJ&O Listening Sessions (Pamela)

Pamela provided an overview of what had happened since the last Vestry meeting. A week after Vestry, Betsey Monnot led the same facilitation exercise with SJ&O that she had done with Vestry. It was not well received. Pamela was disappointed by the feedback she heard from many members of SJ&O, some of which was repeated at the next night's Ministry Council meeting. After consulting a number of people, she decided to step back from the planned process and move into a listening phase. An open invitation has gone out to members of SJ&O and Vestry for one-on-one confidential conversations with Betsy; many SJ&O and Vestry members have participated. Betsey will provide a written report to Pamela, who will decide what the next steps should be.

IX. REPORT: November financial statement, 2020 results (Julie)

Julie reported that the PPE loan was approved as a grant (roughly \$48,000). Pledges received were low in November, and expenses high (the Matthew 25 checks were distributed), resulting in a significant deficit (roughly \$37,000). There was a discussion about the pledges outstanding for 2020, probably attributable to various causes. There was the sense that we will meet our target for pledges in 2020.

X. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Clergy Housing Allowance (Josy)

Annual Housing Resolution (\$31,800 for housing expenses) M/S/P

XI. ACTION ITEM: Approval of a Plan for the Homann Fund

Jessie presented a proposal to assure the long-term stability of the Homann Fund through a five-year plan. In response to a query about whether this time frame was advisable during the challenging pandemic times, she explained that the funds in question were all restricted to music, and that the plan is quite conservative, providing for a prudent level of spending and preparing for an eventual transition to funding some music expenditures from ordinary revenue (plate and pledge). M/S/P

ADDED ITEM: Report on Stewardship

Josy led a discussion about current pledges. 53 are outstanding; 83 are either the same or increased.

XII. REPORT: Budget for 2021 (schedule special Vestry meeting to discuss budget)

Stan noted that it was too soon to present a budget; we need to see the revenue. He pointed out that the current situation invites us to look at things differently. Pamela

noted that the budget discussions present an opportunity to revise and improve some of our processes.

XIII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Josy)

M/S/P There was an expression of gratitude for the good work on the Thanksgiving Project.

XIV. Closing Prayer

Margaret

The next meetings of the Vestry will be on January 11 (regular) and January 18 (special).

Exhibits

Draft Minutes of November 9 meeting

Draft Policy for Fundraising

Process for Vestry/SJ&O Listening Sessions

November 2020 financial report

A Plan for the Homann Fund

Reports for the Consent agenda

Rector's Report

SJ&O report on Thanksgiving Project

Buildings and Grounds Report

Care for God's Creation Minutes