

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis
Minutes of Vestry Meeting
May 11, 2021, 7:00-9:00 pm via Zoom

Present: Stan Forbes, Kimo Kimokeo, Chris Reynolds, Julie Knudsen, Jessie Ann Owens, Honna Steissberg, Sarah Conning, Bob Polkinghorn, Lisa Leigh, David Martin, Ann Liu, Elizabeth Young, Pamela Dolan, Margaret Grayden

Absent: none Guests: none

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

- I. Opening Prayer
Pamela shared the poem “The Summer Day” by Mary Oliver and reflected on the art of paying attention and practicing discernment.
- II. ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Draft Agenda
A motion to approve the draft agenda was seconded, amended to add time for Executive Session, and passed unanimously.
- III. ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Minutes of April 13 meeting
A motion to approve the draft minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting as written was seconded and passed unanimously.
- IV. REPORT: April financial statement
Julie shared the April financial statement, noting that she is pleased to see the list of equity funds on the balance sheet now down to a more manageable number. Reviewing the statement of activity for April, she pointed out that pledge giving is ahead of this time last year and that we are seeing income from the parking lot lease. On the expense side, Julie found nothing worrying in April. She noted that staff expense is high in the January-April time frame due to a lump sum payment.

The vestry then entered executive session to discuss possible litigation and resumed the agenda at 7:53pm. No decisions were taken. Deacon Margaret excused herself during the session.

- V. RECTOR’S REPORT: STAFFING, MISSION, RE-OPENING, PRIORITIES
Pamela reflected on the enormous gift of Stan Forbes’ ranch, which brings opportunities for new ministries and to do good in the world. Pamela has been in conversation with Episcopal leaders around the country who are involved in agrarian ministries (Brian Sellers Peterson and Nurya Love Parish) and has received some ideas and enthusiasm.

Pamela reviewed that if St. Martin’s is to accept the gift, a next step is to inform the Standing Committee of the Diocese. St. Martin’s cannot accept property without involving the Diocese; Lisa explained that the Diocese will make sure we are holding it in trust for the parish. Stan reiterated that he is happy to talk with anyone about the proposal.

After a period of discussion, Bob summarized that a written proposal from Stan will be needed, that the parish should know that for now we are enjoying the use of land and are

entering into a period of discernment. Discussion about ownership of the property is also happening. A suggestion was made to establish a discernment committee. Stan will put his offer in writing as a next step. Jessie pointed out that any large gift must be carefully evaluated before accepting and that we should seek legal assistance.

Pamela and Ann announced that we have received a request to host an outdoor art exhibit from Arts, Cultures, and Designs of Remediation at UC Davis called “Mother Nurture” for four weeks. They view it as an opportunity for positive campus partnership and engagement that is thematically aligned with our Care for God’s Creation work.

- VI. FOLLOW-UP TO LEADERSHIP RETREAT: POLITY, ROLE OF THE VESTRY
Vestry Committees: Jessie reviewed the Vestry Committees document, which is a work in progress. There was discussion about how best to formalize and fill the committees. Bob and Jessie requested volunteers from the vestry to help with further fleshing out the document.

Church in the World Advocacy proposed policy: there was discussion of the proposed policy. Lisa suggested to think of mission issues and tax concerns as two separate questions in considering such a policy. Questions raised in the discussion include whether a policy is necessary, who can speak on behalf of St. Martin’s, and how might a subgroup of the parish such as a committee or interest group express itself in the public sphere. No action was taken on the proposal, but it was agreed to discuss again at a later time.

- VII. ACTION ITEM: Plan for Matthew 25 disbursement for 2021
Deferred to next month

- VIII. UPDATE: Report of Junior Warden
Jessie shared that she has been active in working with the investments committee, learning about the columbarium funds, and she met with the Landscape Planning Task Force. She looks forward to being able to bring the task force report to Vestry for discussion next month.

- IX. UPDATE: Report of Senior Warden
No report from Senior Warden
ACTION: Terms of Rector’s Home Loan
Deferred to next month.

- X. UPDATE: Stan Forbes’ ranch
This item was discussed during the Rector’s report, so no additional update was needed.

- XI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA
A motion to approve the report from the Buildings and Grounds Committee was seconded and passed unanimously.

Margaret offered a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm