

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis
Draft Minutes of Vestry Meeting
April 13, 2021, 7:00-9:00 pm via Zoom

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

Absent:

Guest: Diana Glick joined for item V of the agenda

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

I. Opening Prayer

Pamela shared a video of CBS News coverage of the Bishop's blessing of the solar panels and reflected on this cause for celebration at St. Martin's. She shared two resources: *Earth Gospel: A Guide to Prayer for God's Creation* by Sam Hamilton-Poore, published by Upper Room Books in 2008 and *Living the Way of Jesus: Practicing the Christian Calendar One Week at a Time* by Michael LaVigne, published by Foundry Publishing in 2019

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 March 9 and March 13 meetings

A motion to approve the draft minutes of March 9, 2021 with one correction was seconded and passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the draft minutes of March 13, 2021 was seconded and passed unanimously.

The vestry entered executive session to discuss possible litigation and resumed the agenda at 7:38pm.

IV. REPORT: March financial statement

Julie shared the March financial statement, drawing attention to the pledge revenue for the first quarter, which has come in close to last year. She noted that the Budget and Finance Committee will be monitoring that line closely.

V. DISCUSSION: Follow up from Leadership Retreat

Lisa briefly reviewed the delineation of responsibilities of the Vestry and the Rector, as had been presented at the March Leadership retreat. We discussed that the Vestry has a duty of care to watch over the well-being of the parish as well as a duty of inquiry to understand the decisions we are making and to exercise our own judgment.

In light of the discussion about Vestry's duty of care and duty of inquiry, Bob opened a conversation about the relationship of the Vestry to the Social Justice and Outreach Committee of St. Martin's and the process of decision-making for the Matthew 25 funds. Members were invited to share their thoughts and experiences with this process.

After extensive discussion, a motion was made and seconded stating: In order to allow the Vestry time to discern its goals and priorities for the Matthew 25 funds, Vestry asks the Social Justice and Outreach Committee to not solicit grant proposals for 2021. The motion passed with eleven in favor (Forbes, Dolan, Martin, Reynolds, Knudsen, Young, Kimokeo, Liu, Conning, Owens, Polkinghorn), two opposed (Leigh and Steissberg), and no abstentions.

The clear sense of the group was a unified commitment to St. Martin's mission of social justice and outreach, a recognition of the high level of need in the community during this pandemic year, and a commitment to allocate the funds in 2021 consistent with the spirit of Matthew 25.

VI. DISCUSSION: Tax exempt status, advocacy

Lisa reviewed that the church's tax-exempt status requires an absolute ban on campaigning for candidates as well as a limit on legislative lobbying. While general education on public issues and speaking out with conviction is not a danger, specific legislative lobbying cannot represent a substantial part of our activities.

Attention was drawn to the proposed advocacy policy advanced in Fall 2020 from the Church in the World Commission and agreement made to study it further.

VII. UPDATE: Care for God's Creation letter of interest for Episcopal Community Services grant

Ann shared that the Care for God's Creation committee, working with the rector, has drafted a letter of interest for a grant of \$2,000-\$5,000 from Episcopal Community Services.

VIII. UPDATE: Vestry Committees
Topic deferred to next month.

IX. UPDATE: Stan Forbes' ranch

Pamela offered a brief update on the proposed gift of land. Stan, Bob, and Pamela had an initial meeting with Stan's attorney. Pamela and Stan will meet again soon regarding next steps, including how to loop in the Diocese. Pamela shared that the idea was greeted with great enthusiasm from the Ministry Council, and the next Ministry Council meeting will be held at the ranch on Friday.

X. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A motion to approve the report from the Buildings and Grounds Committee was seconded and passed unanimously.

Closing Prayer

Margaret led a closing prayer

The meeting ended at 9:15pm