

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis,
California Vestry Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2022
4:30-7:00pm
via Zoom

Present: Maria Acuna-Feldman, Diane Bamforth, Beth Capell, Colette Chabbott, Pamela Dolan (Rector), Ben Guthrie, Kimo Kimokeo, Ann Liu, David Martin, Chris Reynolds, Honna Steissberg, Neil Willits

Absent: Julie Knudsen

Guests: Margaret Grayden (Deacon), Bob Polkinghorn (former senior warden), Diana Glick (Chair, SJO), Jerry Hulbert (member, SJO)

Kimo called the meeting to order at 4:30pm

I. Opening Prayer

Pamela shared a devotional from the Asian-American Pacific Islander Eastertide 2022 collection from April 19, focusing on Mary's testimony on Easter morning: "I have seen the Lord". <https://www.aapialive.org/041922>

II. ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Draft Agenda

A motion (Maria) to approve the draft agenda was seconded (Neil), with the notation that the oral portion of Pamela's report would contain one or more action items, and an understanding that certain items in the agenda might be shuffled to allow for late arrival, and passed unanimously.

III. VESTRY SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: *Church Cracked Open.*

Colette led the group in a review of the highlights of the first five chapters, new and returning vestry members broke into two groups (ongoing members and new members) to discuss their impressions, the two groups reconvened to share highlights and to express their hopes for future discussion and action in prayer.

IV. ACTION ITEM: Minutes of March 21 meeting

A motion (Maria) to approve the draft minutes of the March 21, 2022, meeting as written was seconded (Maria) and passed with one abstention (Chris, absent on 3/21).

V. REPORT: Tracking attendance at Sunday services

Colette announced that in future meetings we will have a brief report on weekly attendance.

VI. DISCUSSION: 2022 Parish Priority #4: Giving to groups

The 2022 Leadership Retreat and subsequent discussions of parish priorities identified as a priority for the 2022 Vestry that we develop a process for updating and thoroughly vetting guidelines for giving to groups outside St. Martin's. SJO has

been working on a new mission statement that bears directly on this priority. Pamela therefore invited Bob Polkinghorn (former senior warden), who presented his personal understanding of the evolution of conflicts over giving to groups outside the church that came to a head in 2018 and 2019 and that could not be resolved by a member of the Bishop's Staff who was employed as a facilitator. Those conflicts resulted in a new temporary policy for such giving in 2020 and 2021. The 2021 vestry expressed a hope that the 2022 vestry would explore other models in other churches, develop and thoroughly vet a more permanent policy. The vestry also invited the chair of SJO, Diana Glick, to present SJO's proposed new mission statement (see vestry packet). The discussion covered several issues, including the concept of "mission partners" and the pros and cons of focusing parish giving on those partners; the base (pledge and plate? the "parish budget"?) and % of that base which SJO aspires to donate to other groups; the emphasis on parishioners participation in service vs. financial support of social justice groups outside the church, among other issues. Pamela suggested and the vestry agreed these subjects will be discussed in more depth in future vestry meetings. *A motion (Chris) to commend the excellent work of the SJO committee and accept the SJO mission statement as presented by Diana Glick was seconded (Kimo) and approved with two abstentions (Pamela and Ann).*

VII. ACTION ITEM: Rector's Report

Episcopal Community Services (ECS) grant from the Diocese of Northern California
Pamela discussed the background of the \$5000, 1-year grant that has supported the development of St. Martin's ministry at The Ranch in Esparto, the Seeds of Justice formation series, and a deepened collaboration with Grace Garden, among other initiatives. Care for God's Creation is currently working on an evaluation of the grant (due 5/1) and responding to an invitation to submit an application for a second, \$5000, 1-year grant to be used to continue the four main facets of the land-based ministry (due 5/1, to be included in May vestry packet). *A Senior Warden will sign the application by the end of the week.*

Boy Scout Sunday

Boy Scout Troop 466, which is chartered through the Church of St. Martin's will be celebrating Boy Scout Sunday on May 1. *A motion (Pamela) to allow Troop 466 to raise funds by selling \$5 Yolo Camp cards on May 1 on church grounds was seconded (Neil) and unanimously approved.*

Diocesan Convention Delegate

It was pointed out that at this year's annual meeting, we elected fewer convention delegates than needed. *A motion (Maria) to appoint Francis David, a member of good standing for several years, as a Delegate to the 2022 Diocesan Convention was seconded (Beth) and unanimously approved.*

Rector Sabbatical

Pamela reminded the vestry that she will be on sabbatical for part of 2023 and will be seeking input and support from the Vestry in the development of plans for that time.

VIII. REPORT: March financial statement

A motion (Neil) to accept the treasurer's report was seconded (David) and passed unanimously.

IX. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

In lieu of a written report, Kimo described his participation in a meeting called by the Sacramento and Yolo Community Foundations to encourage support of the Big Day of Giving on May 5. *A motion (Neil) to accept the consent agenda was seconded (Beth) and unanimously approved.*

There was no executive session.

X. Closing prayer:

Margaret closed the meeting with prayer.