

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis, California

Vestry Draft Meeting Minutes

May 16, 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), Diana Glick (Chair, SJO), Jerry Hulbert (member, SJO)

Neil called the meeting to order at 4:30pm

I. Opening Prayer

Pamela opened with prayer focused on Philippians 2:5-9.

II. ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Draft Agenda

A motion (Pamela) to approve the draft agenda, with the addition of a discussion of future meeting times under item VIII and the delay of the financial report until such time that the treasurer could join, was seconded by Chris and passed unanimously.

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

Pamela led the group in a review of the highlights of Chapter 6, focusing on *kenosis*, or self-emptying, and a discussion of practices that help a) break the cycle of attachment to the status quo and b) overcome a sense of ambiguity/uncertainty.

Pamela suggested a ½ day retreat might be useful to fully discuss the four steps the author suggests to address racism.

IV. ACTION ITEM: Minutes of April 25 meeting

A motion (Beth) to approve the draft minutes of the April 25, 2022 meeting, as written was seconded (Colette) and passed.

V. ACTION ITEM: Rector's report

A motion (Maria) to approve the rector's request to approve Debbie Hawkins as a priest associate was seconded (Neil) and passed unanimously. The rector announced Assistant Rector Casey Kloehn Dunsworth would be departing for the San Diego area in June. Her last Sunday at St. Martin's will be June 12. There was a discussion of plans for replacing Casey (or covering some of her duties), which are made more difficult by the fact that this is a part-time position and most ordained clergy aren't interested in part-time employment. Moreover, there's currently a clergy shortage, coming out of the pandemic. There's one new clergy member who *is* looking for a part-time position who has been in touch with Pamela. There is also a seminarian from All Saints, who is in the low-residency program at CDSP (Church Divinity School of the Pacific) who would like to satisfy the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

requirement at St. Martin's. Both of these possibilities are being pursued, though it should still be possible to cover the summer weeks for which Pamela will be absent using priest associates. It was also noted that Michael (Goos) isn't going to be continuing in the Parish office beyond this summer, and so there will need to be part-time staffing for the office, starting in the fall. Pamela said that the prospects for a part-time hire for this position aren't as limited as for the Assistant Rector position.

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

This represented a continuation of the discussion that was held at the April vestry meeting. As was the case during that first part of the discussion, we were joined by Diana Glick (chair, SJO) and Jerry Hulbert (member, SJO). Neil had written out some thoughts about the direction that the Matthew 25 process might follow in the near future, including some minor changes to the directions about the way that the available funding would be allocated, and how proposals might be solicited and evaluated. Pamela said that there are really *two* issues here: how to proceed for FY2022 and how to broaden the discussion of longer-term plans for subsequent years. The plan from the 2021 Vestry was to have a parish-wide discussion on the path forward, in terms of the best way of “*doing*” outreach, which didn't materialize during 2021. There was a discussion of reviving this planned discussion in the early fall of 2022.

There was a motion (Maria, seconded by Ann) to proceed with the 2022 cycle of Matthew 25 giving along lines that were similar to 2021 (with emphasis on providing funding to Mission Partners, the formal proposal to be developed by a committee with at least two Vestry members and two SJO members, and hopefully including at least one “at large” interested party who is neither on Vestry or SJO), and to plan a Fall discussion involving the entire Parish. This motion passed unanimously.

VII. REPORT: April financial statement

There was a brief discussion of the April financial information that was circulated in the packet. There weren't any major changes from the previous month's report, with both revenues and expenditures within the expected range, and showing a slight cumulative surplus (of revenues relative to expenditures) through the first four months of the year. There was also an investment report circulated, which showed that while the value of church investments in the diocese and at Soesbe Financial are *down*, the extent of the downturn is relatively small related to the changes in the stock markets as a whole. Given the lateness of the hour, there was no motion to accept the April financials (and in fact, a slightly revised set of financials was sent to Vestry members in the days following the meeting.). So the April financial report will still need to be part of the agenda for the June Vestry meeting.

VIII. DISCUSSION: Vestry visibility/transparency

Members discussed how to make vestry work and members more accessible to parishioners while the vestry is still meeting on zoom and meeting dates are floating. Members finalized dates and times for the next three months—Monday, June 20, 4:30p; Sunday, July 17, noon; Monday, August 15, 4:30p—and procedures to enable members to attend zoom meetings, both of which the clerk agreed to have updated on

the vestry webpage. In addition, members asked the clerk to set up sign-up sheets for members to take turns a) preparing a summary of each vestry meeting (*News & Views*) to be shared via e-Blast or in the Bulletin (Chris agreed to prepare the summary for May) and b) sitting in a designated spot during coffee hour after the 10am service in order to be available to listen to parishioners' thoughts and concerns. The idea that vestry members might also take turns serving as greeters at Sunday services was raised but not resolved. Vestry members' were reminded to show up for the meetings of the committees over which they have oversight. Increasing vestry visibility at the Pentecost Ministry Fair on June 5 and the picnic on the lawn on June 12 was also discussed.

IX. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

There were two written items submitted for the consent agenda: Pamela's monthly activity summary and the minutes of the monthly meeting of Social Justice and Outreach. *A motion (Maria) to accept the consent agenda item was seconded (Ann) and unanimously approved.*

There was no executive session.

X. Closing prayer:

Margaret closed the meeting with prayer.
The meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.