

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis, California

Vestry Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2022 12:00-2:15pm

via Zoom

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

Absent: Colette Chabbott, Ben Guthrie, Julie Knudsen

Guests: Margaret Grayden (Deacon)

Neil called the meeting to order at 12:08pm

I. Opening Prayer

Pamela opened with prayer.

II. ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Draft Agenda

A motion (Maria, seconded by Beth) to approve the draft agenda, with the two topics added to the Senior Wardens' Report; passed unanimously.

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

Pamela led the group in a discussion of the action plan ("Discipleship") from Chapter 8, focusing on a question from the study guide about how the church should change in order to be "crack'd open", and in particular, what does it need to do, what does it need to *stop* doing, and so forth.

IV. ACTION ITEM: Minutes of June 20 meeting

A motion (Chris) to approve the draft minutes of the June 20, 2022 meeting, was seconded (David) and passed with three abstentions from members who weren't present at that meeting..

V. DISCUSSION: Financial reports, etc.

For unknown reasons, the pledge income was sharply down from the budgeted figure in June. While figures from a single month can be quite volatile, this situation warrants attention, and we plan to send out eMail statements to pledgers, notifying the status of their pledge through the first half of 2022. Otherwise, the financial statement is in reasonably good shape, with revenues roughly as projected through 6 months and expenses down (although part of the decrease reflects the fact that the maintenance reserve and Matthew 25 costs haven't been logged yet). *A motion (Maria) to accept the May and June financial reports was seconded (Beth) and passed unanimously.*

There was also a discussion of the new Parish Hall refrigerator, which historically has been the type of expense that St. Martin's has split equally with Davis Community Meals. Two parishioner donations have been made, reducing the remaining cost to the church to roughly \$1105. It was proposed that this be paid out of Maintenance and Repair funds, with the understanding that M&R could be "backfilled" later in the year, should funds run low. A motion to this effect (*by Beth, seconded by Chris*) was made and passed unanimously.

Finally, it was noted that the Agenda had said that the investment summary would be

discussed, but since the second quarter figures haven't been received yet, that discussion would be postponed to the August meeting.

VI. DISCUSSION: Rector's report

Pamela said that the position description for the part-time administrative assistant position has been posted, and it (surprisingly) attracted quite a lot of interest. However, the job market for positions like this one is quite competitive, as witnessed by the fact that at least one highly qualified applicant had already accepted another position before being contacted by the church.

Gabe conducted a review of church keys that are currently checked out or otherwise unaccounted for, and the number is in the hundreds, a cause of concern. The estimated cost for rekeying all locks on the campus and replacing the keys is surprisingly high, to the point that if the full rekeying project was carried out, the cost would be in a range that requires prior vestry approval. Pamela, Neil and Janet Lane, along with Gabe are exploring several less expensive options (rekeying some locks but not others) that could proceed without vestry approval.

Pamela highlighted a number of activities that have taken place in the last month, include the summer solstice labyrinth walk, the newcomer gathering, and the ongoing Wednesday book discussion.

Betsy McElroy, the seminarian who will be doing her clinical pastoral education with us for four hours/week in the fall.

VII. DISCUSSION: Senior Warden's report (Neil and Kimo)

An emergency planning meeting was held with Mark Dibiella (who is in charge of disaster resiliency for the diocese), and involving quite a few people involved in parish leadership. This had been planned as a four-hour meeting to work on the details of a Parish disaster plan. Gabe had been working on a plan, and while there were details that needed to be filled in, Gabe's excellent work eliminated the need for much of Mark's planned presentation. Mark said that the two congregations who were in the best shape with respect to disaster preparedness were the cathedral and St. Martin's, and St. Martin's was much further along. So kudos to Gabe. The work on this planning document is continuing: the fire department has inspected the entire campus, noting where additional fire extinguishers could be used, estimating room capacities for all rooms, and noting a few tasks that need to be taken care of (such as inspecting the *fire riser*, which is the part of the fire suppression system in the sanctuary that carries water up to the top of the nave). A follow-up meeting with Mark has been scheduled for August, after which this information will be updated.

A wrinkle in the stewardship planning is that Josy Miller has said that she wants to step back as stewardship chair, so Pamela and Neil will be working together to set the timeline and assemble a team of volunteers to work on the operating funds drive. We would like to have the "intake event" (the date by which pledge cards are requested) in early-to-mid October, which should allow enough time to do the needed follow up with parishioners who haven't responded, so that budget planning can be done in a more timely fashion.

There was a brief discussion of whether it's "time" for the vestry to start meeting in person rather than remotely. Given that (1) we don't know what COVID has in store

for the months to come, and (2) we currently have two vestry members who are out of the country, the best case scenario is that the meetings could be “hybrid”, with many members in-person, and those who couldn’t attend in person connecting via zoom. We decided to move the next vestry meeting to Sunday, August 14th (at noon), which will either be at the church or else over zoom, depending on the feasibility of meeting in person.

Kimo mentioned that there are two joint committees with Social Justice and Outreach (SJO), dealing with the Matthew 25 process for *this* year, and the proposed process for 2023 and beyond. Diana Glick wrote up a proposal for the process starting in 2023 which is being used as a starting point for the second of these committees. Kimo has been representing vestry on both of these committees, and he would like different vestry representation when it comes to reviewing possible recipients for the special offering for Christmas, 2022.

Kimo also mentioned that SJO is interested in exploring a partnership with Rise Against Hunger, which is a group that raises money for food packets to be sent as donations either domestically or overseas. One advantage of this process is that it involves a lot of hands-on involvement locally, which would be good for enhancing our volunteer base for outreach projects. SJO had asked for vestry approval to further explore a relationship with Rise Against Hunger. There was a motion (by Kimo, seconded by Diane Bamforth) to this effect that passed unanimously.

VIII. Progress on 2022 Vestry goals

This was planned as a 30 minute discussion, and the meeting was running long enough (and the members were tired enough) that Pamela suggested we postpone this discussion until the August meeting, ideally much earlier in that meeting’s agenda. She said that she would write up some summary material to be read prior to the next meeting that would hopefully expedite the discussion.

There was a brief discussion of what we should do with the “spiritual practice” part of the meeting, since we finished the last chapter of *The Church Crack’d Open*. Several possibilities were discussed, including moving into an older book by Stephanie Spellers (**Radical Welcome**) that’s been re-released in a new edition, or else delving into the study guide material for CCO. Another possibility would be to read the racial justice audit results, which are available on the church web site (or through Google). There was a little concern expressed about getting too far into a new book before the new class of vestry members comes on board after the annual meeting. For the moment, we’ll read the epilogue to CCO prior to our next meeting.

IX. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made and seconded to accept the consent agenda items. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no executive session.

X. Closing prayer:

Margaret closed the meeting with prayer.
The meeting adjourned at 2:18pm.