

Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis
Vestry Meeting Minutes
25 April 2023
7:03-9:28 pm, Parish Library

Present: Anthony Amato (Clerk), Diane Bamforth, Beth Capell (Jr. Warden), Colette Chabbott, Rev. Pamela Dolan (Rector), Ben Guthrie, David Martin, Honna Steissberg, Susan Stone, Neil Willits (Co-Sr. Warden), and Tom Young

Absent: Kimo Kimokeo and Chris Reynolds

Guests: Jessie Ann Owens (Treasurer), Ven. Margaret Grayden, and Rev. Deborah Hawkins

Vote to Approve Draft Agenda for 25 April

A motion to approve today's agenda was introduced (Neil), seconded (Anthony), and passed unanimously.

Opening Prayer and Spiritual Practice

Rev. Pamela guided the Vestry through a spiritual commitment to "give generously, and receive gratefully." We then prayed to God, giver of gifts, to grant us "the wisdom, inspiration, and discipline to cultivate a healthy balance between generous service to others and compassionate care of ourselves."

Vote to Approve March Minutes

A motion to:

- A. Approve the Vestry meeting minutes for 19 March, 2023; and
- B. Herein document the unanimous approval of an email vote which took place in early April to confirm that the Easter Plate Offering for 2023 would be equally divided between the two recipients: Aggie House and World Relief Sacramento;

Was introduced (Tom), seconded (Diane), and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Jessie Ann walked the Vestry through a review of the parish budget compared to our actual March expenditures.

Vote to Accept March Financials

A motion to accept the March financials was introduced (Colette), seconded (Susan), and passed unanimously.

Vote to Modify the Timing of Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustments to be effective January 1

Jessie Ann presented a proposal to:

“adopt the annual diocesan recommendations concerning cost of living allowances, typically issued in November, and effective the following fiscal year; authorize increases mandated by California state law (e.g., for exempt employees).

Rationale: Delaying the decision about these routine increases until late January, when the budget is typically approved, means that the payroll has to be adjusted retroactively to January 1. Employees receive the difference as a bonus, which is taxed at a higher rate.

The Vestry has consistently approved diocesan cost-of-living increases. Doing so as a matter of policy will simplify bookkeeping and budgeting, and be fairer to our employees.”

A motion to adopt this proposal was introduced (Tom), seconded (Beth), and passed unanimously with Pamela abstaining.

All-Parish Conversation I Debrief

A lively discussion regarding April 23's All-Parish Conversation took place. The Vestry was ultimately pleased and grateful for the respectful way in which everyone voiced their opinions, questions and concerns. We recognize that there is a lot of passion on all sides of this conversation and we are committed to taking every parishioner's voice into account.

Preparation for All-Parish Conversation II

The main concern discussed in preparation for the second All-Parish Conversation was the importance of facilitating an open-ended parishwide forum whereby everyone understands that no hasty or immediate decisions will be made on the deficit issue so soon before the Rector's sabbatical. The Vestry very much wants this to be an evolving discussion and for it to not end abruptly.

Rector's Report

Pamela has confirmed with the Vestry that her last day before she leaves for sabbatical is Sunday, June 18. She will be coming back on Monday, September 18. The Vestry was also informed that Bishop Traquair would want to meet with us after coffee hour on April 30, following the bishop's visitation. This will not be a formal Vestry meeting.

Sabbatical expenses were afterwards discussed.

ACTION ITEM: Vote to Endorse the Selection of The Rev. Deborah Hawkins as “Clergy-in-Charge Under Special Circumstances”

A motion to endorse Pamela's selection of The Rev. Deborah Hawkins as her sabbatical replacement on a half-time basis for the period of the rector's sabbatical was introduced (Neil), seconded (Tom), and passed unanimously.

Committee Updates

- A. Building & Grounds: Beth told the Vestry some new information about a potential repair that may be needed in the Sanctuary. More information needs to be gathered about the scope of the repair and its cost before action can be taken on this.
- B. Stewardship: The Vestry was informed of the steady progress being made to fill the remaining positions for this committee.

Vote to Approve Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda for next month was introduced (Colette), seconded (Susan), and passed unanimously.

Closing Prayer

Deacon Margaret led the Vestry in a closing prayer.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:28 pm

Anthony G. Amato
Vestry Clerk

05/24/2023
Date