

4/25/2011

St. Martin's Vestry Meeting

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

St. Martin's,
Ellisville

(FINAL – Approved 6/29/11)

Meeting called by: The Rev. Jon Hall **Type of meeting:** April Vestry Monthly Meeting
Facilitator: Jane Klieve (Sr. Warden) **Note taker:** Ralph Trieschmann (Clerk)

Attendees:

The Rev. Jon Hall, Jane Klieve (Sr. Warden), Sherrie Algren (Jr. Warden), Larry Cornelius (Treasurer), Ralph Trieschmann (Clerk), Tom Baranowski, Mary Drastal, Steve Gillies, Debbie Marx, Carrie Morrison, Tom Soule and Steve Young.

Absent: None

Minutes

Agenda item: Worship / Prayer & Vestry Education **Presenters:** The Rev. Hall & Jane Klieve

Discussion:

Rev. Hall led the group in prayer using "A Daybook of Prayer" for study and reflection.

As a new "norm" for the Vestry meetings, a time-keeper will be appointed for each meeting that will help the facilitators to keep each item of the agenda within a reasonable amount of time – tonight Steve Young is acting as timekeeper.

Additional request made by Jane on behalf of Fr. Jon and the rest of the Exec committee is to have any additions to the Vestry agenda made in advance to allow new items to be considered ahead of time – mostly in hopes of staying aware of the time needed during each meeting for the various topics.

Agenda item: Approval of minutes **Presenter:** Ralph Trieschmann

Minutes from the March Vestry meeting (held March 28) were provided for review, no changes made. The minutes were submitted for approval as sent.

Conclusions:

Jane Moved to accept Minutes, Carrie seconded. Minutes were accepted as written.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Provide April Minutes following meeting	Ralph Trieschmann	Monthly

Agenda item: Calendar Notes & Report Submissions **Presenter:** Rev. Jon Hall

Discussion:

Rector's Report – submitted in writing in separate document. Only additional discussion / comments noted below, for complete notes, see the report as submitted by Fr. Jon:

Fr. Jon noted that the Easter service (all three of them) were well attended and an apparent success. Note for next year – try not to have the egg hunt during the 9 a.m. service as it was a little disruptive (noting of course the rain forced the event indoors).

Fr. Jon showed a few sample research reports that he found on the www.Episcopalchurch.org/research.htm website that summarized some of the results of the collective Parochial Reports submitted in the Diocese. All are encouraged to go online and see some of the interesting data.

Jane commented on the interviews being conducted by the Diocesan Council – their goal is to gather data on the ways that the Diocese and the various parishes can work together.

Sr. Warden's Report submitted in attached document. No additional discussion was had.

Jr. Warden's Report submitted in separate document. Only added comment was that the previous month's discussion of how to treat the memorial donation of the Day Lily Society was handled by the dedication of a tree that will be professionally planted in the circle at the front of the church (Clayton side).

No Actions Required unless as noted in the attached reports.

Agenda item: Vestry Membership: Attendance / Replacement **Presenter:** Rev. Jon Hall

Discussion:

Given the importance of the actions of the Vestry and forum that the monthly meetings represent, Fr. Jon made the recommendation that language be adopted into the Vestry By-Laws to specifically address the process by which the Vestry may remove a member due to repeated absence.

Jane brought for discussion that the Vestry ought to have an idea of what the composition of its members should be. The discussion is timely as we seek to replace a member who resigned, but also applies in general as we consider candidates each year to replace members rotating out. Sherrie suggested we look to the talents of the outgoing members as an indication of the talents to be sought in replacements; Jane presented documents that also indicate some boards seek balance through various demographic dimensions of race, gender, age or in the case of a church, which service they attend (8 a.m. versus 10:15). No conclusion was made on this topic and more discussion is expected in future meetings or possibly at the next Vestry Retreat.

Conclusions:

The proposed language is noted below in the voting section of the Minutes.

Specific to the replacement of Doug Edmonson, Sherrie indicated she had a candidate in mind and that she would approach her before the next meeting. If that candidate showed no interest, Sherrie would report to Jane.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Vote on By-Law change	All	Now
✓ Contact candidate for open Vestry position	Sherrie Algren	2 weeks

Agenda item: Steps for assistant priest by Aug./Sept. **Presenter:** Rev. Jon Hall

Discussion:

Fr. Jon has proposed to bring on staff The Rev. Dr. Emily Hilquist-Davis, currently serving St. Thomas and Grace Episcopal Churches. The conversation has included her current rector at Grace and the diocese. We have permission to make this information public by all parties. Her job here would be 1-2 days a week for a total of 15-17 hours. She needs to remain the vicar of St. Thomas on Sunday mornings. We have spoken about possibly adding a Sat. evening service here which she would plan and be the main celebrant. Other duties would include pastoral visits, funerals and weddings, and some weekday teaching/small group work. Jane and I will be meeting with her in the coming weeks to construct her job description. Emily has been a priest for 5 years and has many gifts to offer St. Martin's. I think she would add a spiritual depth to our faithful community. She is married and has three children. She and her family are covered by her husband's insurance. All she asks for is a percentage of salary at the diocese's basic compensation rate or about \$14,000 - \$15,000 per calendar year. We would need to raise and/or approve this budget amendment ASAP. She could start about the same time we kick off fall programming in mid-late August 2011. Larry added that perhaps the funding could be made as a planned variance in lieu of adjusting the budget

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Vote needed to determine funding of position	All	Now

Agenda item: Garage Sale **Presenter:** Rev. Jon Hall

Discussion:

June 3-4 Jon has requested that there remain some useful space left available for various organizations like AA who meet at the church - otherwise if space is not reserved as in the past, every square inch of space gets taken over to the detriment of all other activities.

Agenda item: Stewardship

Presenter: Mary Drastal

Discussion:

It is the desire of the Stewardship Committee leaders to focus the next teachings on time and talent as alternative to contributions of treasure. There is an additional desire to recruit young members to participate and Mary asks on behalf of the committee if anyone has noticed some younger parishioners who have been giving of their time and talent to incorporate in the committee. Upcoming presentations on estate planning and such are things all are encouraged to attend.

Agenda item: Oasis

Presenter: Carrie Morrison

Discussion:

Carrie and Lynn Corning attended a board meeting and learned of events around Pride Fest (June 25 & 26) including the Mass on the Grass on the 26th at Tower Grove Park. We should invite / send folks. Carrie was seeking ideas on how we as a parish begin the walk on the path towards at least considering the notion of being an Oasis church knowing we will have some in our community who may push back.

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ Vestry to consider how we might advance towards greater openness	All	None
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Agenda item: Monthly Financials

Presenter: Larry Cornelius

Discussion:

Larry submitted his report and suggested we are improving processes including a weekly effort to make journal entries in lieu of waiting for all to build up at month end. Biggest variance to date is the timing of the planned audit which is showing a false favorable position. Larry showed samples of a dashboard that might include such items as attendance, pledge performance, new members, and other data points that might offer insight at a glance.

Agenda item: Voting Issues

Presenter: Various

Items:

-Circle Scholarship: Debbie Moved, Tom S. seconded a motion to approve the commitment to a one-time pledge of \$5k for the Circle of Concern St. Martin's scholarship (to be paid out \$2,500 per each of two years to the winning student). Unanimously approved. (though note that concerns were shared over how the money is dispersed if for example the student does not continue for a second year; and is this commitment now to be the new norm expected of us every year. - for the most part no one had doubts that the plate offering for Circle plus the Garage Sale would fund the \$5k with out a problem.

-Part-Time Priest: Larry moved, Debbie seconded motion to fund the position of both assistant priest posts proposed by Fr. Jon for the remainder of the 2011 calendar / budget year. Unanimously approved. Jon was to contact candidate.

-New By-law: [New By-law](#) language providing as follows:

Vestry service is a ministry and regular attendance at meetings is expected. Members who miss two or more consecutive meetings may be removed from office by a majority vote at any regular or special meeting of the vestry. Unanimously Approved.

- Financial Report. Received from Larry and accepted as written by the Vestry.

Closing Prayer

Meeting closed at 9 p.m. with prayer led by Father Jon Hall.
