

**St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Ellisville, MO**  
**May Vestry Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 20, 2021**  
**Submitted by: Gina Slobodzian, Clerk**

Meeting started at 6:12 p.m.

Participants: Mother Leslie Scoopmire, Cannon Whitney Rice, Tom Allen, Ray Harbert, Rebecca McCoy Brewer, Terence Bostic, Paige Bostic, Angela Logan, Chiazor Omeni

**Opening Prayer (Mother Leslie)**

**Scripture: Psalm 32 (Mother Leslie)**

**Cannon Whitney Rice (Overview of Evangelism)**

- Why we are uncomfortable with the word evangelism?
- Discussed negativity associated with the word evangelism and history of such in the Episcopal church
- Building evangelism with integrity – evangelism is journeying together through the discovery of the good news of Jesus. Rich exchange of spirituality. It cannot be institution motivated.
- 75% of conversation about evangelism may never invite someone to attend church.
- Evangelism is about going to the deep places of the heart. We should be talking to each other about what Jesus is doing in our lives. How is God acting in our lives?
- Our job is to build spiritual relationships with other people, not to get more people to attend our church.
- Live as you are holy and blessed. You are. Name and celebrate good news
- We all have a spiritual gift. Our church has a natural spiritual gift. These will create our evangelism.
- Think bigger about what evangelism is. The good news the God's love is the bedrock love of what transforms lives.
- How do I see good news about God's love in my workplace, my social circle, my family, my congregation? What stories can I share and listen?
- Another way to evangelize is to reduce fear. Understand what we are afraid of. Think about our own fears and share healthy vulnerability to build spiritual intimacy.
- We are proclaiming and receiving good news
- We need to go with people into their spiritual joy and pain
- First tool as an evangelist is to ask questions. What matters most to the other person? What got them through the tough times? Open ended questions (What are curious about in your spiritual life? What do you think about God? What's been on your mind lately?)
- *There are people walking around in your life that may not know that God loves them. We need to feel it in our DNA that people in our lives know*

*that God loves them. We as children of God and our congregation has spiritual gifts that we can share. What are our gifts that we can share?*

### **Priest Report (Mother Leslie) – Report Sent Prior to the meeting**

- Diocesan task force will update guidelines post COVID, then we will bring to the regathering committee then to St. Martin's for in person worship plans future state
- Two weddings and a funeral over the past month
- She is preparing for her leave.
  - Sewanee for 3 weeks then 1 week of vacation
  - June 5-July 7<sup>th</sup>
  - All services are covered and pastoral care
- Shug Goodlow LOA – not finalized
  - Mother Leslie completed and sent to Shug
  - Worked with the diocese over the past several days
  - Thought she did not need pension paid for her. She will need pension paid for per the headquarters of the Episcopal church as Shug will work 20 hours or more. The cost is \$5600
    - Mother Leslie will talk with Bishop Deon when he returns regarding this situation and gain more clarity
    - Tom reviewed staff salary breakdown
    - Wendy's old salary and \$40,811 and split.
    - Tom feels Shug's role is what we budgeted for Wendy and we shouldn't have an issue
    - Mother Leslie is going to ask the Diocese to kick in since the Diocese indicated several times that we did not need to make the contribution
    - Tom asked the vestry if we had any strong objections moving forward – straw poll – no formal vote
      - Angela, Becky, Terence, not opposed
    - Terence asked if she learned anything about Shug that might sway her decision
      - Mother Leslie indicated that she does not have any qualms or issues regarding the LOA and moving forward with Shug
    - Terence asked is there a reason we shouldn't pay the pension, even though we weren't aware of this?
      - Mother Leslie indicated this was a surprise all of a sudden to get thrown this.
  - Tom indicated once we get the LOA finalized, we do an email vote on moving forward with Shug
  - Still negotiating the start date – hoping for the middle of August
- Request for additional funds for education (Mother Leslie exit during discussion) Tom

- Increase of CE from \$500 to \$1500 to help fund continuing education
- Ray asked if request is for 1 year, 2 years or forever?
- Becky reads and Tom answered this is for this year only as we budget for one year
- **Tom motioned to increased Mother Leslie's allotment for CE from \$500 to \$1500 and reassess during budget. Ray seconded. Floor opened for discussion. Feedback by multiple Vestry. Tom reintroduced – and reiterated the motion. All in favor. None opposed**

**Senior Warden Report (Tom) – Sent prior to the group.**

- Regathering committee meeting on Tuesday
  - Getting a flurry of requests for groups to come back in
- Great call with insurance agent, regarding policy changes which would cut costs – over insured

**Junior Warden Report (Terence) – Sent prior to the group**

- Terrence sent out emails to all of our ministry leaders
  - Two pieces of feedback thus far.
  - Terrence trying to be the extra ear to the ground with the ministry leaders

**Financial Report (Tom Allen on behalf of Page Andersen) – Sent Earlier**

- Brief review of the budget. Running a surplus overall of \$60K and pledges are above budget along with plate pledges
- Continue to benefit from open position on staff salaries
- Mother Leslie indicated that our neighbors to the East might want to rent space for adult bible study and this would be additional income
- **Tom made motion to approve financials of April 2021. Second by Becky. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Financials approved.**

**Facilities Report (Terence) – Sent earlier**

- The Vestry would like to thank all who participated in Spring Clean Up:
  - Lincoln Drake
  - Jim Fischer
  - Dana Griggs
  - Lynne Bare
  - Michael Leaseburg
  - Loretta Go
  - Gina Slobodzian
  - Leslie Pattengill
  - Scott Pattengill
  - Trisha Rosehill
  - Angela Logan

- Scott Logan
- Bob Pomeroy
- Mary Jane Drake
- Page Andersen
- Tom Warrington
- Steve Brunkhorst
- Becky McCoy Brewer
- Mike Kelly

- **Motion to approve sump pump expense of \$357 by Terence, second by Angela. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. This comes from capital campaign**

#### **Vestry Minutes from April (Gina) – sent earlier**

- **Motion to approve minutes from April meeting by Becky, second by Terence. All in favor. None opposed.**

#### **New Business**

- Mid year communication to the parish at large. Tom would like to do this and asked the Vestry what they would like for him to cover. A look back and a look forward.
  - Ray indicated, if we can have a hybrid service one week, why can't we do that every week? Those questions come up often.
  - Financial update
  - Year round stewardship
  - Capital campaign
  - Call for volunteers for columbarium
  - Call for volunteers to come and stand at the altar – message around service approach
  - New events and updates
  - Tom will draft and get out within the next month
- Insurance coverage (Discussion by the Vestry)
  - We have an opportunity to adjust coverage to right size to our building and our needs
    - Reduce full building coverage to \$4M vs. \$10M
      - We wouldn't rebuild the same building if our church was destroyed
      - We would save \$5100 by doing this
    - Umbrella coverage is bigger than we need. Reduce that and save another \$1000.
    - Opportunity increase Cyber Loss insurance from \$250K to \$1M for an additional \$1000
      - Agreed to look into a mid range amount of coverage
  - All can be done retroactively to February 1
  - Agreed for further review, but we all agree on building coverage and umbrella coverage modifications

- Camp Phoenix
  - Chiazor asked about this for this summer. Mother Leslie will get back to her.
- Hurray for all our graduates!!!
  - Max Adewunmi
  - Thomas Andersen
  - Kayleigh Logan
  - Olivia Limbaugh
  - Katie Montgomery
  - Nathan Parker
  - Joshua Thompson-Johnson
  - Abby Treishmann (College)

**Closing Prayer (Angela)**

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.