

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Ellisville, MO
August Vestry Meeting
Thursday, August 19, 2021
Submitted by: Gina Slobodzian, Clerk

Meeting started at 6:10 p.m.

Participants: Mother Leslie Scoopmire, Tom Allen, Ray Harbert, Terence Bostic, Paige Bostic, Page Andersen, Chiazor Omeni, Angela Logan, Becky McCoy Brewer (excused prior to meeting start)

Spiritual Reading: Mother Leslie – 1 Peter 2:9-10

- What does this reading mean to you?
- Open communication and discussion amongst the group

Mother Leslie's Report (Sent Prior)

- COVID
 - Thanks to the regathering committee for supporting and helping facilitate in person worship
 - Concerns about how the fall and delta variant will be affecting the students, teachers, etc.
- Blessings of the backpacks this Sunday
- Comments by Paige Bostic around her feelings on returning back to school (senior year) this fall
- Funerals, ordination
 - Special thanks to all who made these events safe
 - Ushers, greeters, broadcast crew, reception food
- Recent deaths
 - Joe Fletcher
 - Funeral is September 18th at 2 p.m.
 - Jim Duncan
 - Jim will be in niche number 1 in the columbarium as this has not been claimed prior. As of now, all of the niches have been purchased
- Book of Common Prayer – rites they are very comforting – encourages us to all take time to read them
- Thanks to Compline ministry readers
 - Gina Slobodzian
 - Loretta Go
- Every other Sunday in person worship through September and October
- Upcoming baptism – Clementine Raiche
- Volunteers for in person worship
 - Altar Guild
 - Thanks to Sherry Algren for lots of new participants to this ministry. She did one training session and is planning another one

- Page Andersen indicated that we might need to personally reach out to parishioners to ask them to volunteer for ministry needs. Mother Leslie asked if we might be able to reach out directly as we need greeters. Largest need is for 8 a.m. Volunteers - if we wish to open this service back up.
- Terence volunteer to participate as reader, acolyte, greeter for the 8 a.m. service. Mother Leslie acknowledged this and was very appreciative
- Question to the group – frequency versus variety – posed by Page
 - 10:30 in person each week if COVID allows
 - 5:05 if COVID allows
- Page asked what is holding us back from weekly services at the 10:30 a.m.
 - Tom stated we don't have enough ushers (many are in the choir)
- Mother Leslie indicated that this summer's in person worship has had low attendance (many parishioners travel)
- We will not be asking for individuals to pre-register for in person worship future state. People who come will have to sign in for contact tracing per the diocese guidelines. We need to have someone present to make sure ensure sign ins and greet accordingly
- Terence asked if readers for that week could possibly be ushers/greeters/sign in facilitators
 - Mother Leslie indicated this might be a good idea, but we need to think this through. Some readers are not coming in early enough to be able to aide in sign in, greet and perform the functions necessary of an usher
- Issues with LanServ (internet/Wi-Fi)
 - Need to have updated bandwidth in more common areas. Current equipment is outdated
 - Mother Leslie will move forward with this as broadcast ministry has not spent all of their funds
 - Cost is less than \$200
- Laundry Love will be starting soon
- UTO will be next month

Senior Warden Report (Tom Allen, Sent Prior)

- Regathering Updates
- Shug's ordination was a great event
- Tom and Terence had discussions around church engagement
- Thanks to Ray Harbert for becoming an additional check signer
- **Next Vestry meeting is September 16th. Executive committee will meet the week before and stay on our regular cadence**

Junior Warden Report (Terence Bostic, Sent prior)

- Input from ministry leaders and their candid feedback
 - Communications comments as abbreviated below
 - The weekly emails need proofreading are a bit rushed
 - Communications updates are not robust
 - Events not being given publicity they should
 - Problems with communication go back many years
 - The Beacon not being received by some regularly due to mail server issues (receiver end)
 - More news of group meetings
 - What needs to be done in meeting rooms to get them ready?
 - Circle of concern updates not passed along
 - Garden updates not passed along
 - Terence asked for feedback surrounding the points above
 - Page stated she's not surprised by these comments
 - Mother Leslie acknowledged some challenges in communication due to technical issues
 - Page suggested that we upload The Beacon to our website versus mass emailing
 - Mother Leslie said that she thinks this is a great idea, but we need someone who can take point to get such uploaded
 - Tom said that's he's personally worked with some parishioners to assist them on the technical side – accessing bulletin/emails
 - Tom said that we don't have a paid communications resource. We made the decision to hire Shug and don't have the funding at this time for a Communications director/point person. Tom welcomes the comments and we need to think about it and pray about it. Let's continue to ask for feedback and control the things we can control.
 - Tom asked Ray if he has heard the same type of feedback as he's in the choir
 - Ray feels once we start getting together in person, communication will improve
 - Bible study on Saturday (for example) – started and didn't have consistency
 - Tom asked for feedback from others:
 - Chiazor commented – there are so many moving pieces with COVID and electronic communication. She liked the idea of encouraging more folks to the website. But, how do you encourage individuals to be proactive on the technical side?

Financials (Page Andersen – Sent prior)

- Page indicated that our cash position is in good shape even though it's the end of summer. We haven't had to take money out of our savings. Expenses have

been limited. We'll now begin paying for Shug as part of staff salaries. Savings on building insurance as noted during prior financials discussion

- Page applied for forgiveness on our 2nd PPE loan
- We continue to get Capital campaign contributions
- Investment committee met a few weeks ago
 - With the Capital Campaign should the investment committee oversee these funds, not just SMIF and LEF? Present state, this is sitting without investments behind it. Steve Brunkhorst will bring this to the Vestry next month for review
 - Ray mentioned the diocese investment fund versus State Street. The thought is where we can get the most return for the lowest fees. Does it make sense to move the Capital Campaign from simple savings to an investment fund?
 - More discussion on this topic at next month's meeting
- **Gina moved to approve the July financials. 2nd by Chiazor. No discussion. All approved. All in favor. None opposed**
- Tom wanted to thank Page for all of her efforts and continued excellent oversight

Facilities Report (Terence – Sent Prior)

- Health of our sexton, Tom. Tom is not able to adequately assist at this time. He sets up for events within the church and helps with general maintenance.
 - Should we post for this position and see if we get a response?
 - We'd like to place a call for volunteers to come out and help. Maybe the men's guild could be a resource?
- Executive Committee approved Capital Campaign expense as submitted by Lincoln Drake on August 4, 2021
 - Additional plumbing expense of \$1,767 that is over the previous approval of \$3,085. Parts and labor for unforeseen issues and for shutoff valves to cap the underground water leak.

Approval of July Vestry meeting minutes – minor spelling changes sent prior to the group.

Tom motioned to approve minutes. 2nd by Terence. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed.

Housing allowance approval for Shug

- Mother Leslie will send this out to the Vestry for email approval next week

Assistance needs

- Stewardship Committee.
 - Let's make it more positive and spread out over the year versus a push during a few months
- Peace Meal coordinator as Larry Cornelius will be stepping down

- Tom requested that we send him names of people who we can think of that might be willing to help us in any capacity. Tom will organize such and make assignments for personal reach outs

Closing prayer by Mother Leslie

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.