

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Ellisville, MO
November Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, November 16, 2021
Submitted by: Gina Slobodzian, Clerk

Meeting started at 6:17 p.m.

Participants: Mother Leslie Scoopmire, Tom Allen, Terence Bostic, Page Andersen, Angela Logan, Rebecca McCoy Brewer, Laura Limbaugh, Ray Harbert, Chiazor Omeni

Prayer requests led by Mother Leslie

Devotion: Scripture for Living - *James 1:1-18*

- Mother Leslie gave us a history on the Epistle
- What does this passage mean to us and what struck us?

Mother Leslie's Report (Sent Prior)

- Annual giving
- Pastoral Care
- Adding items as we begin having meetings back at church
- Bishop visit in November
- In Person Worship started in October
 - Online will continue
- Confirmation classes upcoming
 - One confirmand has only joined us online
 - Going through list of parishioners that are confirmed and we do not have the dates on file, so there will be some reach out to obtain
 - They will be holding classes via Zoom on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. for an hour once the sessions begin
- Funerals
 - Ben Braley
 - Susan Richardson
- Adult Formation
 - Sessions on dealing with Grief are upcoming
- Thanks to Debra and Page for assisting with the Beacon/bulletins
- Lots of reading over the last year around spiritual giving
 - Terminology and concept changes that we are going to be adapting
 - This is not just a once monthly concept, but is giving to the parish year round
 - We are removing the word "stewardship" and replacing it with "annual giving"
 - We will have a Standing committee on annual giving
 - "Pledging" will be replaced with "commit". Commit is an estimate of what you can give. We will use "giving estimate" versus "pledge"
 - What does our budget say about us as a mission statement?

- Where you put your money is where you put your heart
 - Mike Kelly will be leading Annual Giving
- Since we are back in the building, the building expenses will start to go up
- Loretto Go has completed her discernment training
 - She will apply for postulancy and go through 18 months of training/rotation
- Reverend Shug is working on a speaker series for formation
 - The first in the series is Welcome STL and the invitees will be Afghan refugees
 - This will be after one of our 10:30 services
 - Also, it will also be offered online on the following Wednesday for those who cannot make it in person and or prefer to join virtually
- Monday morning adult bible study has moved back to Monday mornings and is led by John Lange
 - Mother Leslie would like to start an evening bible study as well
- Laundry Love (October 12)
 - 2nd Tuesday of November will be the next event
 - We are all encouraged to stop by to volunteer, even for an hour or less
- Scout troop sponsorship
 - Three young men obtained their Eagle Scout (chord of honor)
 - Mother Leslie officiated at the ceremony
 - Ralph Treischmann was there as the Master of Ceremonies
- Thank you for the continued prayers for her mother
- Committal for Evie LaRoche
- We will have an upcoming funeral for Jim Duncan (date to be determined)
- Update on Reverend Shug and how she is settling in
 - Working through the transition of being a lay person to becoming an ordained person. She is helping her navigate this new space and changes within the family structure
 - She is reminding Reverend Shug to balance her personal life and pastoral life
 - Reverend Shug is very involved in Diocesan events and is the President of the UBE
 - Reverend Shug will not be attending Vestry or Executive meetings unless it is necessary due to time constraints
 - Mother Leslie is very grateful to have Reverend Shug in our parish

Senior Warden Report (Sent prior)

- Regathering committee
 - Met this week and have produced the ground rules for both internal and external groups using the church
 - We are not quite ready for very large groups to come back into the church, such as the ski trip participants (over 80 individuals from Memphis)

- AA group and discussions about their use of the church for meetings
 - They need to wear masks (as all do)
 - Need to be able to provide contact tracing, but have some challenges due to anonymity of the program
 - Currently, they are not using our facilities
- Thanks to Becky and Laura for their participation
- 505 might start again during Advent
- November 18th is our next Vestry meeting. Ray noted the date of the convention is the 19th and 20th.

Discussed moving the Vestry meeting to Tuesday the 16th of November and all decided that would be beneficial. Executive committee will remain on the 11th.

Junior Warden Report (not Sent prior)

- No updates

Financials (Page Andersen – Sent prior)

- Income versus expense
 - *We have brought in more income this year than we have spent!*
 - Source of the income comes from a variety of places and the loan forgiveness helped us as we did not have to pull from savings
 - Clergy expenses will go up now that we have Reverend Shug
 - Have not had to take anything out of SMIF this year!
- Letter is going out from Page to the parishioners with the state of financials as part of the giving statements
- Page would like to get a preliminary budget for 2022 in November for our review
- Tom and Mother Leslie extended a special thanks to Page for all she has done
- Requests from Lincoln Drake and approved by Executive committee via email:
 - 9/26/21: Thome Plumbing proposal to install water lines in lower level to restore water to children's Worship area which was capped off due to underground water leak for \$3,178. APPROVED
 - 10/5/21: {Executive committee previously approved the Capital Campaign expense of \$2,800 for the larger wall as part of the HVAC project for the Laird building}. We are asking for approval of an additional \$2,000 to replace the two lower retaining walls and to reset the upper fence as it has moved beyond a simple fix. APPROVED
- **Tom motioned to approve the September financials. 2nd by Rebecca. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed.**

Capital Campaign Report (Tom – Sent Prior)

- Steve Brunkhorst will send an update out to the parish community as part of the quarterly giving statement
- Steve continues to investigate the White Fund

- Investment committee meeting updates
 - Page asked for us to discuss moving some funds from the capital campaign. Would it be meritorious to invest a portion of the capital campaign money in a fund versus leaving in cash?
 - This is a shared fund with the Diocese
 - Tom asked what type of investments are in the portfolio. Page is unsure of that
 - Tom noted that we need to look at the time horizon for any type of investment as well as have more information to make a decision. More information surrounding this process will be forwarded to Tom for us to discuss next month.

Minutes from September Vestry meeting. No additional questions. Tom moved to approve. Terence 2nd. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed.

BREAK – 5 minutes

Updates from reach out by Vestry members to get additional participation as we begin in person worship and outreach

- Annual giving campaign interest/volunteers
 - Chelsea Brewer
 - Chuck Converse
 - Discussion from Mother Leslie surrounding getting a few of the vestry to aide Mike in the Annual Giving Campaign. What she needs from us as volunteers
 - Helping plan
 - Follow up
 - Pointing out to fellow parishioners how giving is a long-term process
 - Terence mentioned the parishioners he spoke to and their level of interest
 - Laura was not able to reach out to parishioners but is willing to stuff envelopes
 - Gina is happy to serve as Mike Kelly needs
 - Scott Logan may be able to help us next year
 - Angela is willing to do clerical work as needed
 - Chiazor updated us on the parishioners she reached out to
- Possible Vestry member/candidate
 - Kay Fletcher

Discussion about Transferring the Legacy Endowment Fund from ECF/SSGA to the DIT to reduce our fees

- We can gain a savings if we move the LEF (Legacy Endowment Fund) to the DIT (Diocesan Investment Trust).
 - Fees for LEF now are \$1532

- Fees for DIT are \$300
- Additionally, the funds performance on both portfolios are the same, if not better on the DIT, per Ray and the Investment Committee's research
- **There was a formal proposal to transfer the legacy endowment holding from ECF/SSGA to DIT/TIAA (Diocesan Investment Trust/TIAA-CREF). Rebecca motioned. Laura 2nd. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed.**

Loretta Go's Postulancy Application

- We as a Vestry need to sign a letter to move forward with Loretta's postulancy application
- Mother Leslie elaborated on the process
 - At the end of the discernment process the committee and the candidate submits a report. We as a vestry attest the candidate's credentials
 - Terence asked for some background on Loretta and why she feels called
 - Mother Leslie noted she has completed her 3-year term at the Episcopal school for ministry with one class to finish
 - Tom said he was on the discernment committee. During this time, Loretta provided a spiritual autobiography. She's fought through a good deal of injustice and diversity in her personal life.
 - Mother Leslie said, "she has a servant's heart for ministry".
 - Mother Leslie noted that a Deacon is a bridge between the world and the church
 - There is a small fee for the application of \$200 which covers screenings for background, etc.
 - Loretta will be coming back to St. Martin's as a deacon after her postulancy period of 18 months
 - **Tom motioned to support Loretta's deaconate on behalf of the people of St. Martins. 2nd from Becky. No additional discussion. All approved. None opposed.**
 - There will be a letter in Tom's mailbox in which all the vestry will need to sign so we can get it to the Bishop. Tom will have the letter in his mailbox on Saturday. We will all need to try to get to the church over the weekend to sign

Feedback from reach out and need for additional resources

- Tom asked for list of names of those who committed during our vestry reach out and he will catalog and then send to Gail Schneider for scheduling
- We still need four new Vestry members

Closing prayer by Mother Leslie

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

