

St. James Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2020

Present: Karen Derr, Marilyn Dowdle, Nancy Folts, Jim Grillo, Leah Nichiporuk, Donella Barney, Joan Rogerson, Charlie Skinner, Nick Forenz

Absent: Gregg Lerner, Gladys Palmer

1. Opening Prayer: Reverend Lynne Sharp opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 pm
2. Approval of Minutes: Jim Grillo moved, seconded by Nick Forenz to approve the April 8, 2020 minutes.
3. Rector's Report
 - a. College for Congregational Development weekends TBD- still looking for a solution. Lynne and Karen did a half day on ZOOM.
 - b. Tithe.ly – Nick had sent out an e-mail “Tithe.ly Calculations” prior to the vestry meeting. Discussion: Jim was opposed stating that we are ok with people who have pledged. Nick was also opposed because it would be adding a cost. Karen agreed it would reduce amount the Church gets and Donella agreed also. Charlie made a motion that we not spend the money on Tithe.ly which was seconded by Nancy. Karen and Nick were thanked for doing the Tithe.ly Calculations.
 - c. Once we return – Zoom? Who would manage it? We will need more equipment; So, people do not feel pressured to come to Church and continue with social distancing; Donella mentioned U-Tube live-(it is great for a 3-minute message; can't stream music). Tom Bidwell asked if anyone would like to overhaul and manage the website. Website portal should be welcoming. Lynne asked the Vestry to think about someone to update the site- friend, grandchild?
 - d. Coffee Hour: Should work this Sunday: There will be 3 groups- a mixed group; a women's group and a men's coffee hour group). There was some discussion about Lynne taking time off. Karen suggested that she take Friday off because that used to be her day off.
 - e. Music Salary: Ellie suggested that she not be paid because the heat has to be turned on Sunday which is an extra cost. After some discussion Karen moved that we continue to pay Ellie but if it is her wish to not be paid, we should honor

that. Donella seconded all were in favor except Charlie who either opposed or abstained.

- f. The Diocese has weekly meetings to support Parishes who may have lower plate & pledge and no fundraisers- Round 1: a) If a Parish has a loan dated since 2008, pay interest only; b) relief for apportionment-\$1200, c) Audit not due until September 30, 2020. d) Potentially opening July 1- A task force to look at different regions. What happens when we get phased in in conjunction with the Governor; CDC. Hopefully we can meet in a modified way- no peace, no eucharist, no coffee hour; how do we deal with funerals, weddings; will need Purell and masks and will need to sanitize the church. Once return should those over 65 not attend group gatherings?

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. Monthly Review by Karen: 1. Christmas and Special offerings includes Easter and since we did not do flowers money will transfer over and will show up in May. 2. Total Investment- a substantial coke dividend. 3. Plate and Pledge offering- compared percentage (2020, 34 %; 2019, 37.5%; 2018, 38.8%) Nick said we are at the midway level; Leah suggested PayPal or some other way to pay so we don't have to have a .52 stamp. 4. Gas bill high for April, is lower for May. 5. Restricted: Bob Hunn's Estate \$4000 for renovations and lighting; actual cost was \$4500 so we paid \$500. 6. Evangelism: payment for the Shopper. 7. Assets updated as much as possible- No statement from Five Star Bank.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Outreach and Mission: The Mission Committee met and decided to give \$600 to Camp Good Days and \$800 to the Food Bank.

Leah made a motion that we give \$600 to Camp Good Days and \$800 to the Food Bank which was seconded by Nick Forenz all were in favor. Leah also has some of the \$200 that was given for cleaning supplies at the last Vestry meeting which she would like to use for shampoo and other items that are needed by Loaves and Fishes. It was agreed that she do so.

Karen suggested that the Mission Committee find other places to support.

- b. Buildings and Grounds

- i. Safe Church & NYS Sexual Harassment Policy – Nick Forenz—all up to date; found Joan and Terry.
- ii. Lawn Care – thank you Nick! For mulching and edging. Nick also jerry-rigged the fence behind the shed. Nick has brackets to fix it.

- iii. Fire System (awaiting Taylor Grant) – still in progress almost ready.
 - iv. Wi-fi and phone (on hold)
 - c. Evangelism: Baccalaureate—some of the youth group are excited about having a service. The Clergy is looking at different options to see if they can bring the kids together.
 - d. Children and Youth—There was discussion about a potential gift packet for all of the Hammondsport Graduates: 1. Lynne suggested a pocket-sized prayer book (around \$13). 2. Other items suggested were cookies; Williams crosses; Gift certificate from Keuka Creamery. Lynne made the motion that we put together a packet including the book, cookies, Williams crosses, gift certificates which was seconded by Donella. Karen said there is money in the Youth budget but why not use the grant from the Diocese?
 - e. Altar Guild
6. Other Business: None.

Final Vestry Meeting of this season, June 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Nancy closed the meeting with a prayer.