

**Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit  
Vestry Meeting Minutes January 23, 2024**

Vestry members in attendance: Senior Warden Gail Kase, Junior Warden Peggy Wilson, Claire Gillespie, Debra Carlson, Amanda Hilty, Carol VanVoorhis, Mike Robinson, Rebecca Sharp

Missing: Bendik Clark

Others in attendance: substitute clerk Deidre Soileau

**The meeting began with silence and prayer (Peggy).**

1. APPROVED

Approval of minutes from December 19 meeting was completed on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> via group emails.

2. APPROVED

Approval of the resolution for Dena's housing allowance in the amount of \$15,000 was completed through email on January 5<sup>th</sup> via group emails. This is part of Dena's salary but needs to be accounted for separately.

3. Treasurer's report

Sam is out today, Gail reported that:

- 2023 surplus is \$31,000 (David's salary and benefits).
- Pledges for 2024 are down \$24,000.
- The Diocese estimates the cost of the rector selection process will be approximately \$10,000.

4. Interim Rector's report: Dena is away.

5. Senior Warden

- Augusta will be on Sabbatical mid-May-August, so there will be several people filling in. **This has resulted in moving the meeting between Augusta, her substitute, and the Vestry from January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 15 at 5:15 pm.**
- Gail noted that Vestry bios were on the tables for members to read.

6. Junior Warden: None since last report.

7. Committee liaison reports
  - a. Property: None since last report
  - b. Finance: None since last report
  - c. Stewardship: None since last report
  - d. Outreach Committee: None since last report
  - e. Celebration Committees: None since last report
  - f. Church Caring Committee: None since last report
  - g. Living Gift Fund: None since last report
  - h. Communication Committee: met January 18 and reviewed draft materials for the Annual Meeting presentation
  - i. La Esperanza: None since last report
  - j. Welcome ministry: None since last report
  - k. Christian Ed: None since last report
  
8. Welcome new Vestry members: Claire Gillespie, Deb Carlson, and Bendik Clark
  
9. New Vestry member committee liaison assignments are as follows:
  - Debra - Christian Ed/Adult Education
  - Bendik - Welcome Ministry--*tentative*
  - Claire - Caring Committee

10. Vestry Rep responsibilities

***Discussion: Vestry call list? Worth it or not?***

Many people who are called by Vestry members were not active members, and do not re-connect to the church because of the calls. We could use discernment on calling those that we know are no longer engaged in the church. Responses may be better using email, but we would need to make sure that people are ok with email first (we know at least one member who is not comfortable with email).

It was suggested that calls be made if there is information to provide, instead of automatically every six months, and that we could substitute or add “in-person at church” contacts.

Possibly Martie could send the Vestry call list to the church to prime the congregation to expect a contact.

***Discussion: Sunday procedures and reminders***

The problem is no-shows for Sunday service jobs. We send reminders but there are often no-shows and some pre-service chaos. There was discussion on options to improve the attendance of the volunteers.

- Peggy reminded everyone it is the weekly Vestry Reps job to cut the fan on before church and off after church.
- Altar Guild is responsible for turning the mics on – but Vestry reps should check anyway.

#### 11. Review Vestry covenant

All agree to abide by these covenants, which are posted at each meeting.

#### 12. Plans for February 4 Annual Meeting

Gail updated everyone on the plans for the postponed Annual Meeting

#### 13. Pastoral care: Jim Woodruff, Marnie Wilson, and Frances Knisley. Vestry members asked that Barbara Moloney, chair of the Caring Committee, be contacted to make sure that Marnie has the home care she will need.

Gail talked about being on Vestry as a “call.” Vestry has the important role of doing everything we can to make sure the church thrives and meets its mission, so we as a church can respond to the Holy Spirit. **Remember how important it is, what we are doing.**

Claire asked if Greeters are part of the Welcoming Committee. The response was that no one is currently in charge of them, so this sounds like a good idea. There is a good bit of overlap with duties of committees, which should be clarified.

#### Closing prayer

#### To Do's:

**Gail will get the Vestry call list out to Vestry members**

**Meeting with Augusta February 15, 5:15pm**

**Next Vestry meeting: Tuesday, February 20 5:00pm**