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St Margaret’s Episcopal Church Vestry

Subject: Minutes for 18 July 2023

Attending: Peter Mayer+ (Rector), Kristen Berthelotte (Senior Warden), Katherine Wiernicki (Treasurer), Paul Shurke Z (Junior Warden), Alden Gross Z, Mary Holstine, Janice John Z, Kathy Lang Z, Lana Keelty, Chris Prender , Susan Roberts, Dan Tootle, Ernie Tucker, Carol Williams, and Jim Barnett (Clerk), Elizabeth Radley (Director of Operations) Z.

Not Attending: Patti Sachs+ (Associate Rector), Dave Boyce, Austin Canuel , Matt Chasse.

Visitors: Jim Douglas (Music Director)

This meeting was conducted in Hybrid format. Zoom attendees are noted by a “Z” after their name.

1. Opening prayer was given at 7:05 pm by Janice John.

2. The meeting was called to order by the Rector. The June 2023 Vestry minutes were approved.

A Quorum was noted as present.

3. Submitted Reports:

1. **Treasurers Report (posted):**

We can anticipate some slippage in collection activities as the summer sets in. The operating checking account is below $100,000 as SMC migrated to a new checking account. Costs for the fire pump issue were contained as Capital Maintenance and drawn from that account in the Endowment. The total cost came in under the Bylaw’s mandate of $5,000 so no Vestry approval was required. The P&L did not reflect the monthly charge to SMDS but that was a timing issue and resolved.

1. **Rector’s Report (posted):**

The Bishop Co-adjuror Elect, Carrie Broadbent-Schofield will start in the Diocese in August and will be consecrated in September.

There was significant discussion regarding the future of “Contemporary Music” at SMC with the departure of the Todds in 2024. The Music Director indicated that what we have are good and we need to keep it going. There is room for improvement however, and we have time to consider the options. The idea of funding a ‘Contemporary Music’ director for transition into the future had been seen in previous discussions by the vestry as a ‘non-starter,’ but this now may need to be revisited.

Al Todd lends his considerable talent and time to this effort to planning and executing the program and we need to respect that. Ernie Tucker made it clear that he does not want to follow Al as the band leader. We will begin looking for someone to carry on the tradition and will probably have to consider paying someone for the time and effort. This has a positive upside but will cost. What that cost might be remains to be determined. We hope the Todds remain with us through the Blue Grass Mass in 2024. The Todds departure presents both a challenge and an opportunity. It must be remembered that the Third Sunday Band is a resource for the Diocese as well. Feelers are out and we look to bring in a replacement potential as soon as possible. It would be nice to have some overlap. The Vestry needs to consider Al’s departure a “retirement” and consider appropriate acknowledgements when the eventuality is realized.

1. **SMDS Report (posted):**

The Day School is asking that the transfer of funds for scholarship money be completed as requested in March of this year. As a reminder, at the March 2023 Vestry meeting we discussed and approved the amount of $5,425 to be drawn from the Endowment to go to the Day School. The motion was tabled in March because there were questions about the timing. Since the school year does not start until late August, there was concern about transferring scholarship money 5 months prior to the start of the school year.

Since there is no meeting in August the Vestry POC would like to have this approved now.

**MOTION: The Vestry reaffirm the previously approved 5,425.00 to be drawn from the Endowment for SMDS Scholarships.**

There was additional discussion regarding the negotiated funding agreement between SMC and SMDS. There is both the SMDS annual contribution and the negotiated shared expenses across the campus.

**The Motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the Quorum assembled.**

1. **Junior Warden’s Report (posted):**

Thanked the fire watch volunteers who organized to stand the watch last month.

The Community work day will be on the honor system this month…bring your own donuts.

The program from the Junior Warden’s retirement was passed around.

1. **Senior Wardens Report (posted):**

Seventeen people have signed up for the Masquerade Gala so far. She asked Vestry members to spread the word both within the Congregation but also in their respective neighborhoods and social media.

It is possible to pay for tickets and not attend informing the Committee as such. This was hoped to reduce the food/drink requirement and cost but still support the Ball. There was additional discussion around “donations” and “sponsorships.” This engendered a discussion regarding identifying parishioners who may be supported by a “sponsorship” donation. This is clearly a sensitive issue and will fall on the Rector or Assistant Rector to resolve. It was suggested that if there are no “sponsorship” needs, the funds will be automatically become donations. There was a suggestion that SMC consider a mailer but the cost may be prohibitive. That suggestion will be left to the Committee. It was reiterated that we need to exploit all available avenues to get the word out.

The Outreach Council continue its efforts.  They will be overhauling the existing web site to make it easier to find information and easier to maintain/update. We will be eliminating “quick links” and folding that information into its appropriate tab. Each webpage will have a content owner who will work with the “web master” (Emily) to update their content and links. Duplicate information will be eliminated. Janice John will assist Emily with the overhaul, working with Content Owners.

The Long-Range Planning Committee continues their work.

**5. For the Good of the Order.**

In an ongoing consideration of installing additional solar panel electricity collection systems at SMC, Dan Tootle viewed a webinar presented by the U.S. Department of Energy for their recently established "Climate & Energy Resources for Faith Communities" program as part of the 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill.  The webinar was hosted by the Interfaith Power & Light organization.  Funds for faith communities such as SMC are being made available through a reimbursement approach from the DoE for projects that address energy efficiency upgrades and create innovative partnerships.  The application process for 2023 projects has been underway for some time with proposals required to be submitted to the DoE SCEP Office by August 5, 2023.  SMC is eligible to participate in the program but will have to look at submitting a proposal in 2024 for approval due to the pending deadline.  Projects with local communities are of particular interest to the DoE, rather than stand alone projects themselves.

Maryland is looking to put a traffic signal in at the junction of St Margaret’s Road and Pleasant Plains Road. The state may need a piece of property for the equipment. It may provide SMC with some opportunities for better signage and light.

The Long-Range Planning Committee is looking at opportunities to either acquire adjacent property or enter into a creative relationship with the current resident to enhance our avenues of approach.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.