



St Margaret's Episcopal Church Vestry

Subject: Minutes for 18 May 2021

Attending: Peter Mayer (Rector), Patti Sachs (Associate Rector), Kristen Berthelotte (Senior Warden), Paul Schurke (Junior Warden), David Allen, Stacia Bontempo, Marti Engstrom, Cory Greene, Barbara Friedmann, Alden Gross, Elizabeth Kopack, Kathy Lang, Luke Morgan, Chris Prender, Susan Roberts, Jim Barnett (Clerk)

Not present: Charlie Lang (Asst Treasurer), Elizabeth Radley (Director of Operations), Katherine Wiernicki (Treasurer), Ella Tomko.

This meeting was held virtually (platform was Zoom) as dictated by the evolving pandemic.

A Quorum was noted per the SMC Bylaws.

- 1. Opening prayer was given at 7 pm by Luke Morgan.**
- 2. The meeting was called to order by the Rector and the April**

2021 Vestry minutes were approved.

3. Submitted reports:

A. The Treasurer's report. (Posted to Vestry)

Pledges and donations were under budget by \$9,855 as of the end of April. Recently, there have been emergency building maintenance issues that have arisen related to the Church heating and air conditioning units, as well as problems with the septic system. The costs associated with the resolution of these issues are outside the scope of the Church operating budget and should be paid for from the capital maintenance endowment. The septic issues resulted in emergency service that could not be estimated upfront and will be billed based on time and materials. If it is determined that replacement of the Church air conditioning units is needed, this project will be competitively bid.

Vestry members expressed their appreciation for the clarity of the Treasurer's Report. The Rector reiterated that: The Treasurer is watching things, but not yet worried, so we can feel comfortable for now. However, "when the Treasurer gets nervous, we get nervous."

B. Rector's Report. (Posted to Vestry)

Attendance during the Pandemic has been down but that is as expected. The nature of church attendance was changing even before the Pandemic but COVID certainly accelerated the change. We are seeing 140-150 at Sunday outdoor worship with another 40-50 streaming the video presentation. This is pretty consistent with our norm of 200 attending Sunday services. SMC remains among the top 5 churches in our diocese in "vibrancy." We remain on top of that wave. Many of the former metrics used to measure church strength need to be reconsidered and some even thrown out the window coming out of COVID. We are not sure how the Dioceses will work with these evolving trends. Simplistically, since we can no longer pass the plate, it effects our income.

When we go back into the Sanctuary, we will still have distancing rules in place that will limit capacity at 30-35 and reservations will be required. We will request an exception so stay tuned. If distancing requirements remain in place, we will do the usual three Sunday services and add a Wednesday evening service and just hope that folks do not double up. It was decided that trying to do one outside Service every Sunday in addition to two indoor services was just to much moving critical elements and not feasible.

David Allen has taken up the task of reviewing and rewriting the SMC bylaws. Hopefully we will have something to present for approval at the next Annual Meeting.

A parishioner has requested we consider hosting a Ska Festival in September. We ae working though insurance and liability issues but are anticipating a good time.

C. Missions Report (Posted to Realm)

Marti Engstrom and Barbara Friedman reporting

Themes and trends are similar to the November 2020 report.

We have sustained significant support to the Food Pantry.

Grants in excess of \$100,000 were awarded locally as well as globally once again.

The Center for Health, Citizenship classes remains a critical mission area with 4 of 4 students passing this cycle.

We are now supporting 5 local Pop Up Pantries.

The Sewing mission provided 1650 masks to AAMC and other local charities. 72 surgical gowns went to AAMC.

Specified giving to Grants at SMC is very different this year with \$24,000 received to add to the \$15,000 annual budget. The Mission Commission has approved \$30,000 in sustaining grants this year.

SMC will be supporting the Annapolis Pride Festival scheduled for 30 October 2021.

Volunteer support this year from the SMC congregation has “been huge.” It remains a very big part of our church and who we are.

D. Trust, Reconciliation and Reparations Report.

The task force leader reiterated that the work of the three sub groups continues.

The Survey is now online with links in Dragon Tails and the weekly church bulletin. We need to know where our congregation stands on this issue and the survey is a good way to get a sensing. If parishioners are not comfortable with online questions, there are hard copies of the survey in the Narthex with a box attendant to sustain anonymity.

Support from the pulpit and the Vestry would be very helpful in raising the awareness of the congregants. We need leadership and Committee leads and liaison to consider “blast” messages to their specific subscribers. Facebook support would be great as would Shepard link awareness.

While an end date for the survey has not been set, the task force is hoping to complete the analysis of the survey this summer and produce a report in the early fall.

E. Junior Warden’s report. (On Realm)

The organ replacement remains on track.

The new sound board cabinet is ready for pick up in Elizabethtown, PA., if anyone has a large truck, we can use it for the pickup. A U-Haul will work. Until we can secure the digital equipment in a cabinet, the Sanctuary will need to be locked. We need to ensure that Parishioners are notified that the Sanctuary is locked.

Work continues and estimates are being gathered to replace the antiquated Sanctuary air conditioning system.

Motion: That the Junior Warden and Operations Officer be authorized to expend up to \$50,000 to replace the Sanctuary Air Conditioning System. Moved, seconded, and approved.

June 12th will be Homecoming. Vestry members were encouraged to find a specific area they would like to work on and gather a group to get that piece done. Work will begin at 8:30 and continue until 11.

F. Senior Warden’s report. (On Realm)

The second phase of the casework has begun with the shelving for the speakers. We anticipate this being completed in the early fall and the console will be delivered in February 2022.

Fund raising to pay for the replacement organ is well on track with a goal of covering the entire \$390,000. The organ committee is looking for additional fund-raising ideas so please bring them on. Progress with fund raising will be reflected in the “key board status graphic” in Dragon Tales.

The meeting and Zoom call were ended at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Barnett