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St Margaret’s Episcopal Church Vestry

Subject: Minutes for 17 October 2023

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

Not Attending: Carol Williams, Dave Boyce, Austin Canuel.

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

1. Opening prayer was given at 7:02 pm by Ernie Tucker.

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

A Quorum was noted as present.

3. Submitted Reports:

1. **Treasurers (Posted)**

Most of the report was relevant to August when there was no Vestry meeting. September results are in the preliminary phase at this time. As reported, everything is looking good. The September deficit is projected to be around $8,000. We are ahead of budget by about $68,000.

The total market value of the Endowment as of August 31, 2023, was $4,663,707.94. The Endowment reported $1,922.48 of realized losses and $52,155.29 of unrealized losses for the month of August.

Operating checking account balance continues to decrease. We need to consider a threshold such that when the account is below a certain number, funds can be automatically moved from the Endowment to the Operating budget checking account. September contained three payrolls but December bonus’ will create more pressure on the account. This will be a topic for the next Vestry meeting.

1. **Rector’s Report (posted):**

We are undergoing a few changes in leadership. Our clerk of several years, Jim Barnett, stepped down officially in September, and will be followed by Kathy Lang beginning in the new year. Jim will serve as substitute this month and December, and Kathy Polk will serve in November and January. We are also working to secure a successor to our senior warden Kristen, who will step down at the annual meeting in January.

1. **SMDS Report:**

Things are mostly good. There has been some confusion and push back in adoption of the new pay system. There is an engagement between the SMC Long Range planning team and SMDS to ensure consistency.

1. **Formation (posted):**

The youth group, teenagers, has moved their meeting time from Monday evening to Sunday afternoon. This will change the Faith and Fellowship event on Monday evenings and thoughts are being solicited. Perhaps an evening Bible Study could be added. The teens are looking forward to two lock-ins over the next couple of months.

1. **Vestry Retreat Report:**

We will need to get this formed up and there will be an email to initiate the planning.

1. **Vestry Nominating Committee Report (posted):**

Continues to solicit viable candidates.

The way the Rector has broken down the task assignments for the Vestry members is:

Third year members work on candidate nominations for the next Vestry,

Second year members work on the Annual Meeting,

First year members work on the Vestry Retreat.

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

TRR met regularly with the gentlemen of Annual Father’s Day Foundation (AFDF) from September 2022 – May 2023.

Monthly Coffee Hour Chats (CHC) on the months the church calendar permitted. Chats are well received and attended, often the audience asks our guest speakers to return for another session.

Spring, 2023 to Present - TRR members began planning the Contrition and Reconciliation Project to lead our congregation towards better understanding and acceptance of our role in the reconciliation process. Our goal is that we, as the present-day congregation of the institution of St. Margaret’s Church, prepare to make contrition with our African American neighbors, many of whom are descendants of the enslaved people of our region. A small group of TRR members developed a document to launch the project and a projected timeline over the summer of 2023.

It is hoped the Vestry will consider a budget line during their budget deliberations for 2024. For the most part, last years budget covered small stipends for guest speakers.

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

Paul Shurke along with Christy Hollywood and JoEllyn Fountain are the delegates to the next convention.  They will be available at the Nov 5th coffee hour to discuss issues pertaining to the convention.

Preparations for the HUGELY successful Masquerade Ball revealed some sad realities about the lighting in the Formation Building. Seeing as it was built to a LEED Silver standard, all of the recessed and track lighting are low-emission LED fixtures. Turns out, they are also discontinued LED fixtures, some without direct replacement.

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

The Masquerade for Missions was a success! We had many volunteers, donors, and sponsors who made this all possible. We had 156 people in the building (139 attendees and 18 support) - it felt full and happy!

We are still doing final accounting and submitting of receipts- I will report totals when we have them, but know that we made ~$24,200 during the auction and ~$2000 for the Heads and Tails. We hope to wrap up accounting by October 31st and will have official totals for you all at the November meeting.

OUTREACH COUNCIL is working on a coffee hour program for November 12th that will be a Realm training. We hope to help people learn about how they can use Realm, as well as encourage them to complete their profile so that we have up to date information.

**4. For the Good of the Order.**

The Rector continued the discussion regarding “discretionary” accounts within the budget framework. They are intended to satisfy day to day emergency needs that are brought to clergy. The budget line is under the Mission Commission budget activity. Perhaps these lines need more consideration in the coming budget deliberations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.