



St Margaret's Episcopal Church Vestry

Subject: Minutes for 21 September 2021

Attending: Peter Mayer (Rector), Patti Sachs (Associate Rector), Elizabeth Radley (Director of Operations), Kristen Berthelotte (Senior Warden), Paul Schurke (Junior Warden), Katherine Wiernicki (Treasurer), David Allen, Stacia Bontempo, Marti Engstrom, Barbara Friedmann, Cory Greene, Alden Gross, Elizabeth Kopack, Luke Morgan, Susan Roberts, and Jim Barnett (Clerk)

Also in attendance: Dan Tootle

This meeting was conducted on Zoom.

Not present: Charlie Lang (Asst Treasurer), Chris Prender, and Kathy Lang

A Quorum was noted per the SMC Bylaws.

1. **Opening prayer was given at 7 pm by Elizabeth Kopack.**
2. **The meeting was called to order by the Rector and the July 2021 Vestry minutes were approved.**
3. **Submitted reports:**

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

Given that it has been two months since the treasurer has submitted a report to the Vestry IVO no August meeting as is the norm, there were more reports and P&L spread sheets than normal. Pledge receipts are running about \$64K behind pledge numbers. Usually, we can anticipate a resurgence in pledge receipts in September as parishioners get back in the habit of giving.

The 2021 Grants have been disbursed with the exception of the \$15,000 going to the Dageno Girls School in Africa. This is the usual "tax" and government issue experienced each year.

The finance committee notes that the market volatility has resulted in a very different year investment wise. We need to continue to be cautious as we move forward, particularly with respect to the Endowment. BB&T is moving investment money around to benefit the Endowment and we now have 5% in real estate. BB&T's merger with Sun Trust has caused a bit of turmoil but we remain on track with them. Our credit card fees have increased because of increased utility which is expected at this point. The Endowment is up over 2020.

Work on the 2022 budget has begun and the Director of Operations is circulating the first draft. There will be line-item adjustments as we continue to look at a significant deficit. The Vestry needs to pay particular attention to this moving forward.

The annual audit is almost complete with no significant issues. "Controls" are being reviewed and updated as a result of the audit.

Reviewing existing contracts is ongoing. The Organ campaign pledge number is about \$8K below the \$400K goal but collections are running about \$65K behind pledges. We have made two payments and have sufficient funds to cover the remainder.

C. Trust, Reparations and Reconciliation Task Force (TRRTF) update (Beth Kopack and Dan Tootle)

The History and Present Practices Report for 2021 has been organized with a table of contents and forward added. This document is meant to be dynamic in nature and updated as additional detail is discovered and found. The document contains additional detail on potentially applicable grants data as well as names of persons engaged in historically significant events.

A question was raised regarding the grants detail and how closely this adheres to the definition of "reparations." In and of itself, "reparations" has a very wide definition, so the initial report reflects this breadth and depth. It remains for the reader to determine if the applicability of those grants numbers pertains to the intent of the document. There may be other ways to reflect these numbers, like percentage of annual grants.

This discussion led to the 8 specific activity proposals received by the TRRTF to date.

One proposal suggested adding a fifth category to the list of approved criteria for grant's submission to SMC. This 5th category would be "Implement trust, enable reconciliation, confront structural racism and inequality." The activity proposal (AP) itself includes a cost of \$25,000 but that needs to be fully discerned within the TF for presentation to the Vestry for approval. Things that need to be considered include impacts on other grants, geographic boundaries for this category, impact on both the grants budget and the church budget (is this additive or inclusive?). It was decided to return that AP to the TF for refinement, but it was recommended that we start small and see where it goes.

It was reiterated that the Vestry can "tweak" each proposal. There was also a concern raised for the administration and staffing of each proposal and how they are to be managed.

The advisability of including names in this history document was discussed in depth from both an historical accuracy perspective and a privacy aspects. These issues as well as the grants monetary section need to be reviewed by the TF before the document is published. Perhaps the names can be removed from the published document. In fact, the mechanism of publication needs to be reviewed and might include posting on the SMC website and potentially hard copy as well. Each of these issues needs to be referred back to the Vestry for approval.

The make up of the TF was reviewed for the Vestry to include the 3 sub groups. The membership of the TF has dwindled but there have been several who have joined along the way. The Vestry was reminded that a survey had been conducted of the parishioners with good representation.

There was a motion to approve two activities that can move forward:

MOTION: To proceed with the Coffee Hour Chats proposal with the understanding that they are not limited to start or stop dates or the number of meetings. Furthermore, we adopt the proposal for church services of persons of African descent with the understanding that the Rector has the discretion on all details including maintenance of names etc.

MOTION: That the survey that was completed by the SMC parishioners and reviewed by the Vestry be accepted. It was, therein and hereby, accepted.

It was then reviewed that of the 9 Activity Proposals received so far, 2 were approved to move forward and the other 7 were referred back to the TF for refinement. These are titled "Coffee Hour Chats" and "Services for Persons of African Descent by SMC Clergy."

There was continuing discussion regarding the "Expansion of Endowment Grants Program" to include geographic boundaries, the percentage or number allocated to this endeavor within the Grants Program, and the annual outlay for this purpose. There was general agreement that this AP needs to be returned to the TF for further refinement but needs to be brought forward before the 2022 Grants Program kicks off.

There was some discussion regarding a suggestion that SMC operating funds be sent directly to the Dioceses as suggested by the Bishop some months back. It was agreed that this needs to be thought through and was referred back to the TRRTF for consideration.

D. Junior Warden's report. (On Realm)

Contracts are moving forward to replace/repair the HVAC system with Calvert. It is now contingent on the supply chain to find the requisite parts and fix the system.

The county has accepted our applications to hook up to the water pipes proximate to SMC. We have contracted with a local provider and they have submitted the requisite permits to bring the water onto the campus. It is hoped that this water source will be available before the well becomes untenable.

A contract has been signed with a local company to begin remediation of the campus grounds. This will include, at a minimum, lawn mowing, fall clean up, and other basic grounds maintenance projects. Beyond that, it has been suggested that various groups/families "adopt" a general area for their care and maintenance. Al Todd will develop a campus plan that can be proffered for "adoption" and will work with those groups/families to ensure areas are maintained correctly with only native plants. We do not have the money nor the staff to manage our campus grounds, this is a good way to ensure our grounds are maintained and parishioners can take pride in their efforts in this regard. The Adopt a Bed Volunteers will become the de facto Buildings and Grounds Committee.

The Junior Warden briefed the Vestry on the status of the speaker build out for the new organ. He will be looking for volunteers, hopefully with carpenter skills, to build the platform between now and the end of October.

E. Senior Warden's report. (On Realm)

Thanks to the Vestry for 100% participation in the Stewardship Campaign for 2022. This shows Vestry commitment and will set the tone for the Campaign to begin in the Fall.

Two Vestry members will roll off the Vestry and are currently filling the liaison position for the Formation Committee. Kathy Lang has volunteered to work with these individuals so that a smooth transfer can occur when the next Vestry class is elected.

The replacement organ is on schedule and Marshall & Ogletree is scheduled to be on campus during the third week in November to begin installing the speakers. It is anticipated that the organ will be installed in the spring of 2022.

G. For the Good of the Order.

Bishop Sutton has informed the Diocese of his desire to retire in 2024. A nominating committee is being formed and anyone who wants to be part of this process needs to advise the Rector before October 13th.

There are new pictures of our organ on the Organ page of the SMC web site. All are encouraged to check it out.

The meeting ended at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jim Barnett