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St Margaret’s Episcopal Church Vestry

Subject: Minutes for 20 December 2022

Attending: Peter Mayer+ (Rector), Patti Sachs (Associate Rector), Kristen Berthelotte (Senior Warden), Paul Shurke (Junior Warden), Katherine Wiernicki (Treasurer), David Allen, Austin Canuel, Matt Chasse, Marti Engstrom, Alden Gross, Janice John, Elizabeth Kopack , Kathy Lang, Chris Prender, Susan Roberts, Dan Tootle. Ernie Tucker, and Jim Barnett (Clerk).

Not Attending: All Present AND Accounted for

This meeting was conducted on the Zoom platform

A Quorum was present.

1. Opening prayer was given at 7:01 pm by Dan Tootle.

2. The meeting was called to order by the Rector. The November 2022 Vestry minutes were approved.

**3. Submitted reports:**

A. **The Rector’s Report (posted):**

Financial packaging with Carla McGill of the Cemetery footpath project is just about complete. We will be moving forward, and McHale Landscape Design will begin the work when the weather is favorable.

**B. Junior Warden (posted):**

We are taking a strategic pause on the dish washer initiative given the current financial environment. We will look at financing small projects on a “sponsor” basis much as we did for the very successful Adopt a Garden initiative. Entities who rent the Parish Hall have asked about the dishwasher in the past and that is the reasoning behind the initiative. There is some additional paperwork required for the state and county if we upgrade our kitchen to “commercial grade” that will probably also entail additional inspections by the Health Department.

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

The Music and Children’s programs are proceeding apace.

Ernie Tucker has taken on the roll of finding potential Vestry Candidates for 2023. If anyone knows of any candidates, please send them forward to Ernie.

We are looking at a Vestry retreat either the 4th or 11th of February. Let the Senior Warden know you preference and availability.

Beth Kopack and Marti Engstrom will be rolling off the Vestry in the New Year.

Several parishioners are dealing with COVID and one note worthy parishioner will be undergoing a procedure to correct a problem (NFI IVO HIPPA).

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

While we continue to lag behind our projections for pledging during the ongoing stewardship campaign, looking back on previous years we do seem to pick up some additional pledges in December.

The Organ acquisition began with a $69,000 withdrawal from the Endowment for the down payment and initiation of the contract. The Capital Campaign to purchase and install the organ now has $44,000 having completed all required payments. With a motion, we could payback the Endowment. There remain a few pledges unmet, and $19,000 total, and the concern is that if we conclude the campaign and retire the debt to our Endowment, those who are considering satisfying their pledge may not be so inclined.

**MOTION: Funds remaining in the designated account for the new Organ be paid back to the Endowment.** Seconded and passed unanimously.

Any additional funds that come in will be placed in the Endowment until the $69,000 is fully renumerated. A parishioner did offer to satisfy the remaining debt but not until after the first of the year. The Rector will contact that individual and seek clarification.

**E. Budget Discussion (draft budget posted to vestry).**

Budget deliberations are done in closed session of the Vestry and the minutes are posted in an addendum available to said Vestry.

The following motions were taken up and approved:

**MOTION: $58,000 be drawn from the Endowment as Thank You bonuses for staff.** Seconded and carried unanimously.

**MOTION: That the budget as proposed be approved.** Seconded and carried with 12 yeas and 1 nay.

The Rector introduced the **Annual motion to approve housing allowance for the Rector and Associate Rector**

**MOTION: Whereas, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income a church-designated allowance paid to him as part of his compensation to the extent used by himfor actual expenses in owning or renting a home; and**

**Whereas, Peter Mayer+ is compensated by *St. Margaret’s* exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel;**

**And Whereas, *St. Margaret’s* does not provide Peter Mayer with a rectory, therefore, it is hereby Resolved, that the total housing allowance paid to Peter Mayer for calendar year *2021* shall be $38,600 added to his annual compensation; and it is further**

**Resolved that the designation of *$*38,600 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year *2021* and all future years unless otherwise provided.**

And:

**Whereas, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income a church-designated allowance paid to her as part of her compensation to the extent used by her for actual expenses in owning or renting a home; and**

**Whereas, Patti Sachs+ is compensated by *St. Margaret’s* exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and**

**Whereas, *St. Margaret’s* does not provide Patti Sachs with a rectory, therefore, it is hereby**

**Resolved, that the total housing allowance paid to Patti Sachs for calendar year *2021* shall be $27,150 added to her annual compensation; and it is further**

**Resolved that the designation of 27,150 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year *2021* and all future years unless otherwise provided.**

So moved, seconded, and voted approved.

The meeting was reopened. The Rector reminded the Vestry that we needed to be faithful above all else. We are here to serve Christ and to make Christ known.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.