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St Margaret’s Episcopal Church Vestry

Subject: Minutes for 21 June 2022

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

Not Attending: Peter Mayer+ (Rector), Chris Prender.

This meeting was conducted in Zoom.

A Quorum was noted per the SMC Bylaws.

1. **Opening prayer was given at 7:00 pm by Kathy Lang.**

**2. The meeting was called to order by the Senior Warden (Rector is on sabbatical).**  **The May 2022 Vestry minutes were approved.**

**3. Submitted reports:**

**A. The Treasurer’s report (posted).**

The treasurer is happy with where we are. We are $30K in the black while projections were to be $45K in the red. We are running about $62K ahead of budget and that is really good.

The funds not executed on recent staff departures were spread across various line items that were running ahead of projections**.**

The Endowment is taking a hit as the markets continue to adjust. The axiom that if you don’t have to sell during market fluctuations, don’t and we are adhering to that. SMC is invested conservatively and that is working. As inflation goes up, markets go down.

There was a $12,000 draw against the endowment as authorized by the Vestry, for the Lighthouse.

**B. TRRTF (posted).**

We have had an extremely successful year and we certainly appreciate the support from the pulpit the reception toward the speakers at coffee hour has been positive and we **are** looking forward to an even more engaged year to follow.

The TRRTF report includes a request for the establishment of a budget line in the 2023 budget**,** within the Operating budget, to support activities next year. There seems to be an appetitefor further engagement and some of that may come at a cost. We may be looking at field trips and would like to consider Church sponsored offsets to those costs. We would like to expand reconciliation activities beyond the Anne Arundel community. The TRRTF feels that $5,000 is a good place to start. We just want to get the thought in the budget plan in case budget deliberations are moving at this point. The Pulpit has been talking about this subject so maybe it is time to put “our money where our mouths are.” This money will not go to “reparations.” We are looking at field trips, educational materials, speaker fees, travel to and from events, and possible organizational costs.

There ware questions regarding the specific funding level and the specific costs for those activities anticipated. The TRRTF is attempting to initiate a baseline and then begin to define specific requirements.

The Vestry was reminded that the 2022 budget does not cover operating costs and there is not reason to assume we will be better off next year. The Stewardship Committee is working on 2023 so we will see. In the meantime, it would be helpful to better understand the line by line needs the TF invasions for 2023 and associated costs. We would also like to be assured that any organization we intend to join has real value to SMC, but it is understood that outreach should be budgeted.

There was some question as to the need to subsidize SMC congregants to ensure attendance. They can usually fund things that matter themselves. We have generous parishioners who can, and will pay **their** own way. We may find that with gas prices raising and driver availabilityshrinking, costs may be higher than in the past and this needs consideration.

There was a suggestion that the TRRTF reach out to Native American groups for inclusion.

An itemized request is important.

**C. Day School Report (posted).**

Tricia retired this month, and the new administration seems to be doing well. Day camp started this week and lots of good things are happening.

We need to thank Susan Roberts for her more than 5 years as the SMCS School Board Chair. Ms Roberts reminded the Vestry that the Bylaws for SMDS require participation by parishioners **on** the school board and their participation has been noteworthy.

There was a question about how issues involving the school are communicated to the office staff. Currently, when issues come up, office staff are engaged and working on solutions.

We are still working to get SMDS administration engaged with the Vestry. We need to get the staff and school administration together to put names with faces to facilitate engagement and interaction. We would like to do these meetings before school starts in the fall but there is a lot to do before school begins.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding cost sharing and solar panels. There are currently 94 solar panels in place, and they contribute to offsetting costs on campus. It may be time to **review** the financial relationship between SMC and SMDS. That review is on the agenda for the coming year. Currently SMDS contributes $1500 per month to the operations budget. It has not changed in approximately 6 years. The Vestry was reminded that the largess received from the PPP Loan process was based solely on the submission of the school. The school is legally part of SMC.

The discussion then changed to general security on campus to include drills run by the school and egress portals. Three years ago, SMC reviewed their security status but the kinds of predators we may see now are different and may require different procedures. The discussion then digressed to opaque window coverings and internal as well as external threat mitigations. A thorough evaluation needs to be done of the church. Potentially, we will need to bring in an expert from outside for a complete review.

We also need to relook at the security profile of our campus.

**D. Parish Life Report.**

The liaison was unsure of the exact information the Rector wanted in the report. The report was deferred to July. Previous schedules called for a Finance report, but July may not be the right month for that, so it was delayed until September.

**E. Junior Warden’s Report (posted).**

There will be a working party on the grounds this weekend, all are invited. Mulch will be delivered for the use of the Adopt a Garden volunteers as necessary.

We are not seeing much interest in bid submissions for our roof work. No one seems to want that work.

**F. Senior Warden’s Report (posted).**

The organ has been delayed to the Fall. We are hoping to have it working for events scheduled in September.

More VestryGreeters have signed up for the summer.

The Call lists for Vestry members have been adjusted.

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

There was a question about tasks performed by the Communications Director after her departure earlier this year. Various members of the staff have taken on specific tasks and that seems to be working well. Is it sustainable after the summer? It seems to be sustainable but if the Vestry feels that a new website is needed, we will have to hire a new webmaster for that task. Our website is pretty much up to date and working well. Bulletin and Dragon Tales items will need to be submitted by Monday for printing Wednesday. Dragon Tales will come out bimonthly through the summer.

We are monitoring Emily DelSordo’s working hoursto ensure she is compensated accordingly.

A suggestion was made to bring back a food truck. This was seen as a huge plus and maybe we should consider it for the Fall. It was reminded that this was very expensive. Along the same line, a pot luck is very labor intensive and should not be leveraged on staff.

Vestry members were reminded that they will notmeet in August**.**

The next meeting will be July 19 and will be at 7 PM on Zoom. A Parish Life report will be submitted.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM