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St Margaret’s Episcopal Church Vestry

Subject: Minutes for 16 May 2023 Approved

Attending: Peter Mayer+ (Rector), Patti Sachs+ (Associate Rector) Z, Kristen Berthelotte (Senior Warden), Katherine Wiernicki (Treasurer)Z, Dave Boyce, Austin Canuel , Matt Chasse, Mary Holstine, Janice John, Lana Keelty, Kathy Lang, , Susan Roberts, Dan Tootle, Ernie Tucker, Carol Williams, and Jim Barnett (Clerk).

Not Attending: Alden Gross, Chris Prender, Paul Shurke (Junior Warden)

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

A Quorum was present.

1. Opening prayer was given at 7:00 pm by Austin Canuel.

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

3. Submitted Reports:

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

We continue to run ahead of budget with an annual deficit projection of about $36,000. Good news. There has been some discussion regarding a separate EIN for SMDS. It centers on a new school board member looking at potentials. It was noted that this may be more complicated than it seems initially. It would separate everything and make it more complex.

1. **Rector’s Report (posted):**

The Rector reflected on discussions being held with newer and younger members of our church regarding pledging. They seem to be “sick of being asked” for money. There seems to be an opportunity to look at pledging in the coming Campaign with a different lens for different demographics. He likened it to a funnel with the open top being newcomers and the challenge evolving in addressing their particular pledge challenges. Some are just wading into the water and may not stay so they do not want to commit at this point. Being more forceful with these parishioners may be counterproductive. The other end of the funnel folks may be more likely to increase their giving if we tailor the request to their area of giving. Newer parishioners need to be schooled in the mechanisms of SMC, for instance, how long is the commitment to be elected to Vestry. They value community and are looking at what is expected of an adult in church.

1. **Day School Report (posted):**

Graduation will be June 7th this year.

Jim Douglas will take over the music program for SMDS.

Special enrichment will be enhanced next year.

We are completing our first full year with a two-person leadership team and it is working well.

Staffing remains a concern at SMDS but turnover is low and that’s a good thing.

1. **Missions Commission Report (posted):**

Annapolis Pride parade is coming and SMC will be there. We are finalizing the T shirt design.

Citizenship classes continue and can now be attended online.

My Brothers Pantry has food drives scheduled for November and February, see Dragon Tales for information.

The SMC relationship with the Lighthouse shelter remains strong. They continue to welcome food donations and SMC will host a drive in June. They have gathered lots of food this spring.

The tutor program continues, contact Fran Becker if you want to engage.

Winter Relief was very successful with 15 guests this past winter.

It was noted that SMC’s grant to the National Immigration Network of $3,000 has now grown to a budget of over $300,000.

Lots more in the report.

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

Workday was very successful and thanks to Al Todd for obtaining a grant that translated into more than 200 plants and trees plus mulch for the campus.

The Junior Warden will retire from the Coast Guard June 30th.

1. **Senior Wardens Report (posted):**

Everyone’s efforts for Good Seed Sunday are very much appreciated. In spite of the rain, a good time was had by all.

The Name Tag initiative seems to be working. The anticipated back up at the entry did not materialize. The 0730 Services noted everyone wearing their name tags. It helps with breaking the ice with new parishioners and reconnecting with those we have not seen in a while. We will be making announcements during the services regarding the name tag initiative. It will help us keep a more accurate count in the Realm system.

There was an idea for a survey using the Survey Monkey platform that may add information to profiles. This would be a one-time survey. People will need to be encouraged to complete the survey. It was noted that the first few questions were more “essay” in nature and might be better received if multiple choice. Do we need permission to translate answers into Realm? We may need to consider a disclaimer. It might provide us with a good glimpse of where we are as a congregation. Every question should have a “why are we asking this question” but there may be footnotes to the survey. Do we have any data on who uses Realm beyond church staff? It is knowable from the Realm report. Maybe Realm needs more publicity. Young people seem to be using Realm to make donations so it may be a generational thing. We do use Realm to schedule people like ushers, alterguild, and coffee hour. Most people seem to be getting used to using Realm. Others would prefer to “stay off the grid.” We are not using it as efficiently as its full potential. It can be a source of talent identification as has been noted in the music domain. You plant seeds and you don’t know how they will come up. If you have any suggestions send them to Janice John. Do we need another draft to Vestry? The team would like to get it out in June and the Outreach Council will report to the Vestry with the results.

The Masquerade extravaganza is moving forward with Chris Prender as the CFO. The bookkeeper will handle this designated fund. There is a request for $5,000 from the Endowment to provide seed money before ticket money begins to flow in. As the funds become available through ticket sales, the $5,000 will be returned to the Endowment.

**Motion: That the Masquerade Committee be authorized to draw $5,000 from the Endowment to satisfy initial requirements until funds from the sale of tickets begin to come in>**

Discussion followed: The targeted revenue from this event is $10,000 but the Committee is hoping to realize $30,000. There will be a live auction vice a “silent auction” at this point. A professional auctioneer will be hired. There will also be “sponsorship” opportunities. There needs to be a spectrum of auction items offered so that everyone in the congregation can participate. The auction is not the major part of the party. Online ticket sales should start in June but there is no discount for early purchase at this time. The Committee is pounding the pavement to get auction items and it was suggested that the Vestry fund an item from contributions. The Committee is looking at “package” auction items. Most of the proceeds will come from sponsorship contributions. We are setting the maximum capacity/participation at 250 people. Ticket sales will begin in early July at $80 per ticket. The Committee is looking at a different model from the SMDS Silent Auction. Professional bar tenders will be at the bars. We need to notify our neighbors.

**The Motion was then passed unanimously.**

**5. For the Good of the Order.**

A special thank you to Mike Winn and Barbara Breeden for hosting the Vestry for 30 minutes prior to the Vestry meeting. They provided a history of their work and offered the opportunity to for Vestry members to look through their collections. They also had 2 requests.  One is to conduct tours of the campus this Fall to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the church in its present location. The second request is to remove the Last Supper painting that is in the hallway outside their office.  The Archives would like to put up some other pictures. The Rector recommended retaining this painting somewhere as it is a part of our history.

Parishioners are invited to the next Father’s Day Foundation event. The Bishop asked attendees to take lots of pictures.

Happy Birthday was sung to the Senior Warden.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.