

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VESTRY
OF THE CHAPEL OF THE CROSS
WILL BE ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020
with the business session to begin at 6:00 p.m.**

**Draft Minutes of the Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross
20 February 2020**

On a snowy February evening with likely dangerous road conditions, the Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross met via Zoom Cloud Meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2020. Present were Dick Taylor (Sr. Warden), Emily Moseley (Jr. Warden), Leigh Ann Dasher, Molly Dempsey, Allison Worthy, Carol Marshall, Alan Rimer, Lee Wollman, Ann Craver, Amy Daubert, Terry Eason, and Meg Flournoy. Also present were Elizabeth Marie Melchionna (Rector), Noah VanNiel (Associate Rector), Mary Cat Young (Associate Rector for University Ministry), Faith Turchi (Parish Administrator and Stewardship Coordinator), Sabrina Olsen (Chair of Finance Committee), and Nancy Kelly (Clerk).

The Rector presided, and the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Lectio Divina

Mr. Taylor led the Bible study for the evening.

The Gospel reading appointed for the coming Sunday was Matthew 17: 1-9.
The Bible study concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Consent Agenda

The Finance Committee reports for December and January were removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

It was moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mrs Craver, and passed unanimously, that the Finance Committee financial reports for December and January be removed from the Consent Agenda for further comment and discussion.

The following items were placed on the Consent Agenda (attached):

- Approval of Minutes from the January meeting of the Vestry
- Acceptance of Rector's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Associate Rector's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Associate Rector's University Ministry Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Buildings and Grounds Committee Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Faith in Action Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Youth and Family Minister's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Parish Administrator's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of 2019 Parochial Report (attached)

-Acceptance of Christian Formation Report (attached)

-Acceptance of Communications Report (attached)

It was moved by Mrs. Marshall, seconded by Mrs. Craver, and passed unanimously, that the Vestry approve the Consent Agenda.

Rector's Report

The report of the Rector is attached.

The Rector began by revisiting a discussion from several years ago of a proposal for installation of a Ben Long fresco in the Parish Hall. At the time, the Vestry decided that it was not in a position to move forward with the project and that it would reconsider the proposal in 2020. She said that, in her view, the parish at present doesn't have the band-width to undertake another major project.

Mr. Eason, who was not on the Vestry at the time of the original discussions, asked for some clarity on the details. He would like to see the model that Mr. Long had created for the project, which Mr. Rimer said is now stored in the basement but is not in good condition. He said that he understood that there would be no cost to the parish for this project, and he asked if the main concern is that the parish already has too much going on or that there would be major disruption in the Parish Hall during installation of a fresco.

It was further explained that the cost would be borne by the community, which would have to raise \$500,000 to support the project. The cost to the parish would not be monetary, but it would involve scaffolding in the Parish Hall for many months.

Vestry members raised concerns about who would spearhead the project, the issue of overlapping community fundraising for the project and how parishioner support of the community effort might impact contributions to the *You Are the Light* Capital Campaign and the organ, and the issues of maintenance of a fresco and the likely need for a docent since the fresco would be on the Ben Long Fresco Trail. Some parishioners have also expressed that they really like the simplicity of the white walls of the Parish Hall.

Mr. Eason recalled that when the initial discussions with Mr. Long took place before construction of the Parish Hall was completed, there were three walls that were considered for a fresco, but it wasn't until the Parish Hall was identified by the artist as the preferred location that the Vestry became involved in discussions.

It was moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Rimer, and passed with ten (10) in favor and two (2) abstentions, that the Vestry express gratitude to Ben Long for his interest in installing a fresco at Chapel of the Cross but that Chapel of the Cross has decided not to proceed with the fresco project.

Laura Benton Rezac

The Rector updated the Vestry on Laura Benton Rezac's progress in the ordination process. She is presently in the final step of this process, finishing her final year of divinity school and serving a parish in Wilmington. The Vestry is now being asked to recommend that she be ordained to the transitional diaconate. She will appear before the Standing Committee in March.

It was moved by Mrs. Craver, seconded by Mrs. Worthy, and passed unanimously, that the Vestry recommend that Laura Benton Rezac move forward in the ordination process to the transitional diaconate.

Ms. Turchi said that within the next week Vestry members need to sign the official form, which she will leave at the front desk.

Faith in Action

Mrs. Worthy referred the Vestry to the attached Humanitarian Crisis Statement and said that Chapel of the Cross is invited to sign on to the statement as a supporting parish.

Although it was not meant to be political, the concern was raised about publishing this statement in the newspaper during the primary season and how it might be viewed as

a political statement, with the additional complication of COTC being used as an early voting site.

Another concern was raised about the possibility that the statement is open to different interpretations. There are concerns that the wording might alienate some individuals.

The question was raised about the engagement of communities of color in drafting the statement. Mrs. Worthy replied that Justice United reviewed the statement but that African-American churches felt that they couldn't support the statement because it draws attention away from their plight. She added that the Rev. William Barber does support it.

A question was raised about the history of Chapel of the Cross making such statements, and the Rector replied that the last time such a statement was made was a few years ago with HB-2 (the bathroom bill).

If Chapel of the Cross had drafted the statement, is this how we would have expressed our concerns? It was suggested that perhaps, rather than the parish as a whole, it would be more appropriate for Faith in Action to sign on to the statement, as the words would be more meaningful coupled with the actions of the Global Mission Committee and the Outreach Committee, and perhaps the Creation Care Committee. Mr. VanNiel highlighted the last sentence of the statement, "We encourage you to join with us or your own church, synagogue, mosque, temple, or community group to work for the humane

treatment of all people," as the promise to take action to support the words behind the statement.

The question about a financial contribution was also raised, highlighting a concern that signing on to the statement should carry some responsibility for more than mere verbal support. Financial support and specific actions of support will be the next steps to be considered.

It was moved by Mrs. Worthy, seconded by Ms. Dempsey, and passed unanimously, that the Vestry recommendation that the Global Mission Committee and the Outreach Committee sign on to the Humanitarian Crisis Statement be approved.

It was suggested that the parish be informed of this action of the Vestry before parishioners read it in the newspaper.

Capital Campaign

A draft of the *You Are the Light* Capital Campaign Recognition Policy is attached.

Vestry members are asked to read the draft policy carefully and reply directly to Ford Worthy at fworthy@pappasventures.com with comments, questions, and suggestions. Mr. Eason noted that it's very important that we get this right, and Ms.

Melchionna referred to the large plaque in the transept hall, saying that it has been criticized as being not the right size nor the right placement. Support was also made for the idea that all donors should be recognized.

Lilly Grant

Chapel of the Cross has been invited to apply for a Lilly Endowment Sustainability Grant. Ms. Flournoy, Meredith Dockery, and Roman Perun worked with Ms. Young on drafting the grant proposal. The grant would be \$10,000 for five years, and the proposal needs to show the strategic plan.

The COTC annual budget already funds ECM with \$10,000 per year, but ECM would ask for an increase in the budget to support this program. Ms. Young asked Vestry members to reflect on the proposal and forward any feedback to her, in preparation for a Vestry vote of support on March 20.

Ms. Olsen said that she has read the proposal and is impressed with the clear ideas and the detail about specific programs.

Finance Committee

The December and January financial statements are attached. They had been removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion and comment.

Ms. Olsen explained that December financials weren't ready in time for inclusion in the January Vestry packet. The surplus for 2019 amounted to \$42,000. The year ended below budget on pledge contributions, and some expenses were lower than expected, specifically due to staff positions that were unfilled. Physical plant expenses were over budget. It is notable that the loan balance was reduced during the year by \$920,000.

Ms. Olsen cautioned that the small surplus in January was mainly a result of timing of expenditures and not a trend.

The Finance Committee asks the Vestry for authorization to pursue options to renew or refinance the existing bank loan. The recommendation from the Finance Committee is that former Treasurer John Pegram be authorized to pursue the discussions regarding the current bank loan.

It was moved by the Finance Committee, and passed unanimously, that the Vestry approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee that John Pegram, former Treasurer, be authorized to seek options on behalf of the Chapel of the Cross for renewal or refinancing of the current bank loan with a minimum of three banks, including BB&T (which holds the current loan) Southern Bank, and a third bank to be determined.

In making its recommendation, the Finance Committee was aware that Mr. Pegram had served as President of Southern Bank before his retirement and determined that this would not be a problem in the negotiations. The Finance Committee recommends, however, that the parish adopt a conflict of interest policy. A draft of The Chapel of the Cross Policy on Conflicts of Interest is attached for Vestry review. It will be presented for Vestry approval at the March meeting.

It was also noted that in March the Vestry will be asked to approve a Finance Committee recommendation to pay off a substantial amount on the loan.

Ms. Olsen then turned to the Finance Committee recommendation for an update to clarify the Undesignated Gifts and Bequests Policy. At present, the policy is that undesignated gifts and bequests be allocated 40% to the Program Fund, 30% to the Capital Fund, 20% to the Endowment Fund, designated for Worship and Program Support, and 10% to the Social Ministries Fund. The recommendation is a clarification of the policy to state that the policy will apply to gifts and bequests of \$5000 or more and that gifts of less than \$5000 will be reflected in the current year operating fund as unpledged contributions.

It was moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Rimer, and passed unanimously, that the Vestry adopt the updated policy on undesignated gifts and bequests to specify that the policy applies to gifts and bequests of \$5000 or more and

that gifts of less than \$5000 will be reflected in the current year operating fund as unpledged contributions.

Family Time

The Vestry again engaged in informal discussion of parishioners who have not been seen at church services recently, with follow-up assigned as needed. Vestry members also shared the names of newcomers whom they have recently met.

Announcement

The March meeting of the Vestry falls on Thursday, March 19. As this is ABC Sale week, a different location for the meeting will be determined.

Adjournment

The Rector thanked the Vestry for their flexibility in meeting via Zoom. She then offered a prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy F. Kelly

Clerk of the Vestry

Attachments

- - - Consent Agenda
- - - Rector's Report
- - - Associate Rector's Report
- - - Associate Rector for University Ministry's Report
- - - Finance Committee Report: December and January Financials
- - - Update to the Undesignated Bequests and Gifts Policy
- - - Capital Campaign Steering Committee/Leadership Gifts Report
- - - Buildings and Grounds Committee Report
- - - Faith in Action Report
- - - Humanitarian Crisis Statement, with accompanying documents
- - - Draft of My Spiritual Awakening Lilly Endowment Sustainability Grant

Proposal, with Budget

- - - Youth and Family Minister's Report

- - - Parish Administrator and Stewardship Coordinator's Report
- - - 2019 Parochial Report
- - - Christian Formation Report
- - - Draft of Chapel of the Cross Policy on Conflicts of Interest
- - - Draft of *You Are the Light* Capital Campaign Recognition Policy
- - - Communications Report