

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VESTRY  
OF THE CHAPEL OF THE CROSS  
WILL BE ON THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020  
with the business session to begin at 6:00 p.m.**

**Draft Minutes of the Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross  
18 June 2020**

The Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross again met via Zoom Cloud Meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2020. Present were Dick Taylor (Sr. Warden), Emily Moseley (Jr. Warden), Leigh Ann Dasher, Molly Dempsey, Allison Worthy, Carol Marshall, Lee Wollman, Ann Craver, Amy Daubert, Terry Eason, and Meg Flournoy. Also present were John Branson (Priest-in-Charge), Noah VanNiel (Associate Rector), Mary Cat Young (Associate Rector for University Ministry), Amanda Bourne (Curate), Faith Turchi (Parish Administrator and Stewardship Coordinator), Sabrina Olsen (Chair of Finance Committee), and Nancy Kelly (Clerk). Bishop Suffragan Anne Hodges-Copple was present for the initial part of the meeting.

The Sr. Warden presided, and the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with a welcome to the Suffragan Bishop.

**Bishop Suffragan Anne Hodges Copple**

Bishop Anne began the meeting with a meditation on the difference between a blessing and a privilege. Referring to the Beatitudes, she suggested that the Beatitudes give one an opportunity to ponder the idea of blessing vs. privilege. Saying that she has become painfully aware of her privilege during the Covid pandemic, she suggested that what privilege does is grant one access to benefits, whether they be earned, bought, or bestowed. A blessing, on the other hand, is anything that reflects God's goodness, love, generosity, or mercy. Blessings reveal God's power to see us through adversity. Mrs. Marshall suggested that what really matters is how we respond to privileges and blessings. Mr. Van Niel added that power plays into privilege and we must ask ourselves how best to use that power.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- Approval of Minutes from the May meeting of the Vestry
- Acceptance of Priest-in-Charge's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Associate Rector's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Associate Rector for University Ministry's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Finance Committee Report (attached)
- Acceptance of April Financial Reports (attached)
- Acceptance of Stewardship Committee Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Faith in Action Report (attached)

-Acceptance of Buildings and Grounds Committee Report, amended  
(attached)

-Acceptance of Preschool Report (attached)

-Acceptance of Christian Formation Report (attached)

-Acceptance of Youth and Family Minister's Report (attached)

-Acceptance of Music Report (attached)

-Acceptance of Parish Life and Worship Coordinator's Report (attached)

-Acceptance of Communications Report (attached)

-Acceptance of Parish Administrator's Report (attached)

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

### **Priest-in-Charge's Report**

The report of the Priest-in-Charge is attached.

Mr. Branson began by expressing deep appreciation to Ms. Dasher and Mrs. Wollman for their significant leadership on the issue of re-imagining stewardship and on the progress being made in that area.

Mr. Branson noted the switch-over in Sunday morning worship to Morning Prayer three times a month. He affirmed his appreciation of the Chapel of the Cross

staff and clergy for stepping up to make this possible. He is deeply grateful to Nick Jaeger for his skill set and his willingness to try new things.

### **Sr. Warden and Jr. Warden**

Mr. Taylor began by stating that he feels blessed to be working with Jr. Warden Ms. Moseley.

Mr. Taylor informed the Vestry that the wardens have been in conversation with Director of Music and Organist Joe Causby on how the parish can best support him as the music program moves forward without an organ scholar.

The wardens also meet weekly with Mr. Branson and have met with Treasurer Carrie Fraipont and Chair of the Finance Committee Ms. Olsen about the 2020 budget.

Mr. Taylor then asked Ms. Moseley to comment. She began by saying that she, too, is blessed to be working with Mr. Taylor, the clergy, and the staff. She is grateful for the leadership of the members of the Vestry and to Mrs. Marshall for her work on Family Time in this time of uncertainty. She posed three questions that loom large:

1. What are we called to do?
2. How can we meet the needs of our broad community?

3. How do we sustain our community relationships?

Mr. Taylor then introduced new curate Ms. Bourne to the Vestry. She began by giving the Vestry a brief summary of her background. She was raised in Maryland but has spent most of her adult life in Northern Virginia. She spent a year in the Episcopal Service Corps, then attended Virginia Theological Seminary. She likes to hike, cook, bake, and read mystery novels. Her ordination will take place at Chapel of the Cross.

Mr. Taylor then invited members of the Vestry to sign the Vestry Letter of Support for Ordination of a Priest. As the form must be signed at a meeting of the Vestry and the Vestry is meeting via Zoom because of the pandemic, each Vestry member had been asked to print out a copy of the form to sign at the meeting. Vestry members were then asked to sign the document, scan the form, and send it to Ms. Turchi.

**It was moved by Ms. Moseley, seconded by Mrs. Craver, and passed unanimously, that all documents signed and dated at this time will be deemed to have been signed at this June meeting of the Vestry.**

Mr. Taylor informed the Vestry that the election of delegates to the 2020 Diocesan Convention will take place at the July meeting of the Vestry. There is the possibility that the convention might not take place, depending on pandemic

guidelines at the time. Diocesan canons prohibit a convention via Zoom, and the only way to change the canons is at an in-person convention. It's possible that there could be a virtual convention, but no business could be enacted. Change in the canons would have to wait until an in-person convention could be held.

## **Financials**

Ms. Olsen reported that through May, revenues are ahead of the prior year by about \$100,000. This is in part due to the fact that some large pledges that are often paid at the end of the year have already been paid this year. She noted that expenses are comparable to 2019 but that some substantial bills have yet to be paid.

Endowment income is down about \$300,000 since the beginning of the year. The refinancing of the loan is complete, and the first payment will be due in October.

Ms. Olsen invited Mr. Taylor to outline for the Vestry three areas in which Vestry action is required: Faith in Action, the nursery workers, and the Preschool.

A commitment had previously been made that if \$25,000 were not earned at the ABC Sale, the parish would make up the difference. Also, from ABC Sale funds, a three-year commitment of \$15,000 per year was made to the IFC Capital Campaign, with this year being the third year of that commitment. The ABC Sale, of course, was not held this year because of the pandemic, although the ABC Sale auction did take place and netted about \$6000. In the end, the parish will honor its

commitment to make up the \$19,000 difference, allowing for honoring of the IFC pledge and then \$10,000 in support for other outreach.

The parish has continued to pay the Sunday nursery workers and plans to do so through June. This has amounted to about \$2000 per month for the four months, ending in June, with no Sunday services.

The Preschool has honored its commitment to pay \$650 in monthly rent to the parish, and they've paid through June. It is the intention of the parish that no further rent be charged for the time that the Preschool is unable to occupy the space because of the pandemic. The parish would, however, like to have a conversation with the Preschool about re-negotiating cleaning costs, which amount to about twice what the Preschool pays in rent. The Preschool agreement is due to be re-negotiated in August 2021.

**It was moved by Mrs. Marshall, seconded by Ms. Dasher, and passed unanimously, that the parish honor its commitment to make up the difference between anticipated ABC Sale proceeds of \$25,000 and the actual amount raised, thus enabling the parish to honor its commitment of \$15,000 to the IFC Capital Campaign and providing \$10,000 for other outreach; that the parish continue to pay Sunday nursery workers through June; that the parish not charge rent to the Preschool after June 30, 2020, for time they're unable to occupy the**

**space; and that the Preschool contract, to be re-negotiated in August 2021, consider cleaning costs of the space.**

It was noted that the Preschool netted about \$12,000 at its recent fund-raiser, and it was suggested that the parish might consider something similar to offset the loss of anticipated revenue from the ABC Sale.

### **Re-opening Plan**

Mr. Van Niel apologized for having omitted the names of Ms. Dempsey and Mrs. Marshall on the re-opening team.

In preparation for re-opening the parish, the team is working on health and safety protocols in the areas of worship, offices, and the Preschool. The plan has been sent to the Diocese for review and approval.

Although July 1 had been set as a tentative date for re-opening, this will most likely have to be postponed until North Carolina health metrics are more stable and more consistent. The worship re-opening will likely begin with a soft opening, perhaps Vestry members who feel comfortable participating in in-person worship. Worship in general will be primarily virtual for months.

Mr. Van Niel expressed gratitude for the input of experts, specifically mentioning the expertise of Jeff Runge, Bennet Waters, and Art Baker.

Ms. Young reminded the Vestry that UNC students will be returning to campus sooner than usual, in early August. Although the Campus Center won't be open, plans are being considered for meals on the lawn, lemonade, or soup in take-away containers, as an alternative to the usual gatherings.

Ms. Turchi informed the Vestry that there will be no student residents living at the church this fall. The issue of student residents will be re-considered later this year.

Mr. Van Niel, saying that the parish at present can provide neither community nor communion, said that the Vestry needs to help hold the parish together during these difficult times. He concluded by saying, "I believe in us and I believe in God, so I think we're going to the okay."

### **Stewardship Committee**

Mrs. Wollman and Ms. Daubert reported the good news that Nancy McGuffin and Harriet Pegram have agreed to co-chair the 2021 Annual Campaign. The hope of the campaign is to have in hand half of the campaign goal by the parish kick-off date. Contact points for parish affinity groups will be approached to aid in this

effort. Vestry members are asked to submit their pledges by July 16, the date of the next Vestry meeting. In an effort to minimize use of paper, online pledging will be encouraged, although pledge cards will still be available.

Mrs. Craver reported on the *You Are the Light* campaign. The good news is that the outstanding debt now stands at \$1,100,000, the parish doesn't owe another payment until October, and the campaign will net \$353,000 when the sale of the North Street property closes in August. In short, the parish is in good shape to pay off the debt and can then turn to the appeal for funds for a new organ and program initiatives. She also reported that some fifty households have made legacy gifts and said that publication of this fact might inspire others to do so as well.

### **Family Time**

The traditional Family Time, in which the Vestry engages in informal discussion of parishioners who have not been seen at church services recently and shares the names of newcomers whom they have recently met, is at present being revised to address the current situation.

Mrs. Marshall, referring to the revised Family Time document about groups in need within the parish and how to address their needs, stated that the committee is filling in the blanks and assigning some of the duties. Mr. Van Niel offered encouragement for this important work.

## **Adjournment**

Ms. Bourne offered a prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy F. Kelly

Clerk of the Vestry

## **Attachments**

- - - Consent Agenda
- - - Priest-in-Charge's Report
- - - Associate Rector's Report
- - - Associate Rector for University Ministry's Report
- - - Finance Committee Report
- - - April Financials Report
- - - Stewardship Report
- - - Faith in Action Report
- - - Buildings and Grounds Committee Report
- - - Preschool Report

- - - Christian Formation Report
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