

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VESTRY
OF THE CHAPEL OF THE CROSS
WILL BE ON THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020
with the business session to begin at 6:00 p.m.**

**Draft Minutes of the Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross
21 May 2020**

The Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross again met via Zoom Cloud Meeting on Thursday, May 21, 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 John Branson (Priest-in-Charge), Noah VanNiel (Associate Rector), Mary Cat Young (Associate Rector for University Ministry), Joe Causby (Director of Music and Organist), Faith Turchi (Parish Administrator and Stewardship Coordinator), Carrie Fraipont (Treasurer), and Nancy Kelly (Clerk).

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

Lectio Divina

Ms. Daubert led the Bible study for the evening.

The Gospel reading appointed for the coming Sunday was John 17: 1-11. The Bible study concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Van Niel noted an error in his report and asked that it be corrected. In the fifth bullet under the Administration and Communications section, he asked that Ms. Moseley and Mrs. Dempsey be added to the names of those on the team.

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

- Approval of Minutes from the April meeting of the Vestry
- Acceptance of Priest-in-Charge's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Associate Rector's Report (attached, as amended)
- Acceptance of Associate Rector for University Ministry's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Finance Committee Report (attached)
- Acceptanc of April Financial Reports (attached)
- Acceptance of Faith in Action Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Lilly Grant Report Update (attached)
- Acceptance of Preschool Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Parish Life and Worship Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Christian Formation Report (attached)

- Acceptance of Music Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Youth and Family Minister's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Parish Administrator's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Communications Report (attached)

It was moved by Ms. Moseley, seconded by Mrs. Wollman, 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 saying that it is a privilege to be here at the Chapel of the Cross, and he commended the staff for the extraordinary ways in which they are stepping up to the task at hand during the pandemic.

Mr. Branson commented on the need for flexibility and and for doing the usual things in new ways, sometimes even going back to long past ways of doing things. He cited as an example the postcards that will be going out on Monday to all parish households as a more personal communication than is a mass email posting. The message is simple: We miss you!

Mr. Branson also asked that the parish integrate the new UNC schedule into its plans and asked Ms. Young to comment on what's in store for UNC students this academic year. She shared with the Vestry that classes will begin earlier this year, on August 10, and students will actually be moving in beginning on August 3. There will be no Fall Break this year, and exams will be completed before Thanksgiving. The start date for second semester has yet to be determined. Classes will be offered both in person and online, giving flexibility to students whose off-campus lease might not begin until after classes have started. This will allow students to begin the semester online and then move to classes in person as their situation permits.

The question was raised about plans for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools. Although specific plans to open haven't yet been announced by CHCCS, the state is allowing schools to open as early as August 17.

Sr. Warden

Mr. Taylor provided the Vestry with several updates.

He began by thanking the Vestry for their approval of the sale of the North Street property left to the church by Betty Sanders. The conditions of the sale have been met, including cleaning up the yard, removing bamboo, and removing a tree stump. The process is in the due diligence phase.

In the Re-imagining Curacies program, three candidates have been identified, and all three have accepted. Each curate will spend one year at each of the three parishes, and assignments for the initial year will be made soon.

The Diocese held a series of three retreats with staff, Standing Committee, and Diocesan Council to develop a Mission Strategy and Goals. The three areas of mission priorities were Racial Justice and Reconciliation, collaboration and new communities and congregations, and vulnerable congregations. Mr. Taylor reported that the Goal of Racial Justice and Reconciliation includes supporting, resourcing, and equipping three or more historically white congregations in researching their history with race. The Chapel of the Cross has begun talking about our history involving race, and this diocesan initiative might be an opportunity for us to go further in this endeavor.

Mr. Taylor then asked Mr. Causby to comment on the issue of the hiring freeze at Duke that is preventing us from hiring a new organ scholar.

Mr. Causby informed the Vestry that a wonderful new organ scholar had been identified but that we can't move forward because of the hiring freeze at Duke. Even if Duke should begin hiring again, this individual has already received another job offer.

Mr. Causby noted that this coming Sunday will be Joey Fala's last Sunday with us. He praised Mr. Fala's tenure as organ scholar, saying that he has set the bar very high.

Mr. Causby continued by stating that the music program will continue to be online for quite a while, likely being one of the last things to be restored as the church re-opens. He interacts with more than 100 people each week, so this year will continue to be difficult. Mrs. Wollman asked how the Vestry might help him. He expressed thanks for this offer but added that he doesn't yet know what help he needs, commenting "They didn't train us for this in school."

Treasurer

The Treasurer's Report and the April Financials are attached.

Ms. Fraipoint commented that the April financials show good news, with higher pledge income and both revenues and expenses positive. The surplus in April is about \$70,000. The PPP loan helps, but the endowment assets have fallen by about 15%.

The loan has been re-financed with Southern Bank. The loan is for \$1,100,000 at 2.9% interest for four years. There will be a \$400,000 balloon payment at the end of the loan if only required payments are made, but this is not the intention of the Finance Committee.

The audit is underway, and the auditors have commented favorably on working with Trinity.

Mrs. Craver expressed thanks to Ms. Fraipont, saying that her job is a big one even in ordinary times and is certainly more demanding during the pandemic. The Vestry responded with applause.

Ms. Moseley suggested that the Vestry communicate to the parish its gratitude for continued financial support of the parish, with the acknowledgment that we will be looking at a new normal.

Mrs. Marshall asked for a definition of a financial dashboard, which was referred to in the Finance Committee Report. Ms. Moseley explained that it is merely a simple way to communicate, with a brief summary, including supporting data.

Mission Essential Functions

A parish team has been working with the Diocesan guidelines for re-opening, and we need, in the context of the Covid-19 crisis, to focus on what God is calling us to be and to do. In light of this, Mr. Van Niel then led a discussion of mission essential functions, asking each Vestry member to suggest up to three things that this parish needs to do to focus on our mission as we approach re-opening.

The following were comments on what we need to do to meet the mission of the Chapel of the Cross:

-Support the parish community and keep it together and connected, thus providing us with the necessary strength to take our values out into the wider community.

-Continue to stream services in order to expand our reach, perhaps adding a parish-wide email at 8:45 a.m. to remind parishioners that the service is about to begin.

-Foster stewardship and how we care for and manage what we're responsible for.

-Support the music program, which is integral to worship at the Chapel of the Cross.

-Find ways to connect with those who are unable to access online offerings.

-Find ways to worship God together and continue to build and nurture relationships among parishioners in many ways.

-Offer ways for parishioners to establish spiritual discipline and refreshment at home.

-Encourage lay leadership to help the clergy by taking on appropriate responsibilities.

-Take advantage of new opportunities to support and expand our already strong programming.

-Explore ways to deliver healing prayer and laying on of hands virtually.

Mr. Van Niel commented that the rituals of touch, such as the Peace, the receiving of the bread during the Eucharist, and the laying on of hands are greatly missed.

-Help parishioners to discern where their outlook should be in the greater world.

-Determine how to support in their faith parishioners we're not reaching.

It was noted that there will be a second round of calls to parishioners to check in.

-Ensure parishioners that they're cared for, especially when the church re-opens for worship.

-Don't lose sight of the staggering financial needs in the community. The IFC, for example, was promised \$15,000 from the ABC Sale, which was postponed, perhaps cancelled, this year.

The above comments all fall under the areas of community, worship, formation, and outreach, sometimes overlapping. It was suggested that we look at this as an opportunity to grow in our faith. The leadership team will take under consideration these concerns as it plans the re-opening, and this will also guide the clergy and staff in where to focus their efforts.

Stewardship Committee

Mrs. Wollman and Ms. Daubert commented on the work of re-imagining stewardship. With "clear-eyed realism and unparalleled hope," the committee plans to take a more holistic approach in engagement and development, with the Annual Fund, the William Mercer Green Foundation, and the Capital Campaign all falling under the

umbrella of Stewardship. It is the committee's recommendation that this become a standing committee of the Vestry.

The Annual Fund, as yet to be named for the coming year, needs not only chairs, but also committee members and "thought partners" in order to make it more a community effort. The committee should include representatives of the Finance Committee, as well as representatives from various affinity groups of the parish. Mrs. Wollman and Ms. Daubert asked Vestry members to forward to them names of parishioners who might be approached about serving on this committee.

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 document recently sent to Vestry members about groups in need within the parish and how to address their needs, stated that the goal is to make sure that more lay people are engaged in this effort so as not to further the burden on clergy and staff. She noted that this is a draft version, and she asked Vestry members to forward to her any other groups that might have been missed on the draft list.

The next steps will be to identify parishhioners who fit into each group, to synthesize the needs of these individuals and groups, and then to refer them to various pastoral care ministries for follow-up.

Announcements

The June 18 meeting of the Vestry will include time with Bishop Hodges-Copple via Zoom. It was suggested that she be asked to prepare an opening devotional in lieu of Lectio Divina.

Adjournment

Mr. Branson offered a prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 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
- - - Faith in Action Report
- - - Lilly Grant Report Update
- - - Preschool Report
- - - Parish Life and Worship Report
- - - Christian Formation Report
- - - Music Report
- - - Youth and Family Minister's Report
- - - Parish Administrator's Report
- - - Communications Report