

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VESTRY
OF THE CHAPEL OF THE CROSS
WILL BE ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020
with the business session to begin at 6:00 p.m.**

**Draft Minutes of the Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross
17 September 2020**

The Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross again met via Zoom Cloud Meeting on Thursday, September 17, 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), Amanda Bourne (Curate), Faith Turchi (Parish Administrator and Stewardship Coordinator), Carrie Fraipont (Treasurer), and Nancy Kelly (Clerk).

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

Devotion

Mrs. Craver led the devotion for the evening, choosing the scripture and prayer from Evening Prayers for Every Day of the Year by Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of Minutes from the August Meeting of the Vestry

- Acceptance of Rector's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Associate Rector's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Associate Rector for University Ministry's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Curate's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Finance Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Stewardship Committee Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Faith in Action Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Lilly Grant Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Preschool Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Family Time Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Christian Formation 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 Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Wollman, and passed unanimously, that the Vestry approve the Consent Agenda.

Rector's Report

The Rector's report is attached.

Ms. Melchionna began by expressing thanks to everyone for leading in many different ways and in being creative and maintaining focus on our common life.

As the parish moves into phase 2 of the Diocesan guidelines for the pandemic restrictions, the Rector cautioned that although more options for worship and parish life will become possible, the parish will be strategic about what it offers and when.

Ms. Melchionna offered thanks to those who have expressed an interest in serving on a committee on racial justice. She invites and challenges the Vestry to make a statement to the

congregation on this topic. She likens it to a pastoral letter in which the Vestry invites the congregation to join the work that has already been happening and is ongoing. She envisions it as a statement of commitment to listening and to living out our baptismal covenant. She asked the Vestry if they would be open to such a letter, and all Vestry members expressed their interest. She responded by saying that she will ask two or three Vestry members to draft the letter.

Laura Benton Rezak will begin work as a priest in Charleston SC on October 1. The Vestry is being asked for endorsement for her ordination to the priesthood. Ms. Rezak will write an update for the Vestry. The Rector will send out the official document for Vestry members to print out, sign, and return so that it can be forwarded through the proper channels.

It was moved by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Wollman, and passed unanimously, that the Vestry endorse Laura Benton Rezak for ordination to the priesthood.

Finance Committee

Ms. Fraipont reported that the August financials remain relatively encouraging. The surplus is about \$99,000, although this is expected to decrease in coming months. Pledge receipts have been ahead of schedule, but this won't likely continue.

The good news is that the loan balance is now down to \$500,000.

Capital Campaign Update

The Capital Campaign update is attached.

Ms. Turchi reported that to date, 244 contributors have made total pledges and unpledged gifts of \$2,660,209. This includes the proceeds from the sale of the Betty Sanders house.

Ms. Melchionna continued the discussion by stating that we are now approaching the point at which the Vestry will have to make decisions about priorities for the remainder of the campaign. What is the funding priority now that we've received pledges to cover the outstanding debt? Where do we use the next dollars that come in? Would we go into debt (bridge loan) to achieve cash flow to fund these priorities? Do we continue to make transfers from the operating budget?

She then turned to the first question: How do we prioritize the next dollars that come in, based on the mission of the parish? The possibilities are 1) new programmatic initiatives; 2) care of our facilities/deferred maintenance; 3) procurement of a high quality pipe organ to serve the parish for generations to come. She would like for the Vestry to ponder these issues and come prepared to discuss them at the October meeting.

Vestry members expressed some concern about making decisions on prioritizing expenditures without knowing cost estimates, especially those related to deferred maintenance. The concern was expressed that it seems unimaginable not to do maintenance in the church before a new organ is installed, especially maintenance that would produce dust. It was also observed that some of the maintenance work is necessary work, even without considering the organ. Attention was called to p. 38, Exhibit B of the Capital Campaign Report, which highlights outgoing cash for the loan, the organ, deferred maintenance and program.

Mrs. Wollman expressed, on behalf of the Vestry, thanks to Ford Worthy for his work on the *You Are the Light* campaign. She will send him an email to this effect.

Stewardship Charter

Attached is the Stewardship Charter.

Ms. Melchionna thanked Mrs. Wollman and Ms. Daubert, with the help of Ms. Flournoy, for their work in building the new stewardship model. The Stewardship Charter will be on the Consent Agenda in October for approval.

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, has been revised to address the current situation.

Mrs. Marshall reported that the information in the attached report is self-explanatory. She added that the committee is working with Peggy Pratt to determine if there is any need not being served by Good Samaritans or Family Time or the clergy.

Curate

Curate Amanda Bourne thanked the Vestry and the clergy for welcoming her to the parish, to which all responded by saying that they're glad she's here.

The Rector offered a blessing, and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 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
- - - Curate's Report
- - - Finance Committee Report
- - - Stewardship Committee Report
- - - Faith in Action Report
- - - Lilly Grant Report
- - - Preschool Report
- - - Family Time Report
- - - Christian Formation Report
- - - Youth and Family Minister's Report
- - - Parish Administrator and Stewardship Coordinator's Report
- - - Communications Report
- - - August Treasurer's Report
- - - August Financial Reports
- - - Music Program Report
- - - Organ Advisory Committee Report and Resolution