

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VESTRY
OF THE CHAPEL OF THE CROSS
WILL BE ON THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021
with the business session to begin at 6:00 p.m.**

**Minutes of the Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross
15 April 2021**

The Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross again met via Zoom Cloud Meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2021. Present were Emily Moseley (Sr. Warden), Roman Perun (Jr. Warden), Carol Marshall, Alan Rimer, Lee Wollman, Annie Craver, Amy Daubert, Terry Eason, Meg Flournoy, Jess Aylor, Brian Coggins, and Harriet Pegram. Also present were Elizabeth Marie Melchionna (Rector), Noah Van Niel (Associate Rector), Mary Cat Young (Associate Rector for University Ministry), Amanda Bourne (Curate), Faith Turchi (Parish Administrator and Stewardship Coordinator), Sabrina Olsen (Treasurer), and Nancy Kelly (Clerk).

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

Devotion/Prayer

Mr. Rimer led the devotion for the evening with a prayer for Earth Day, which will be on April 22.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of Minutes from the March 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 Committee Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Faith in Action Report , including Minutes of the JSC Meeting
(attached)

- Acceptance of Lilly Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Preschool Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Family Time Report (attached))
- Acceptance of Parish Life and Worship Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Christian Formation Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Music Ministry Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Family and Youth Ministry Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Parish Administrator's Report (attached)
- Acceptance of Communications Report (attached)

It was moved by Mr. Rimer, seconded by Ms. Aylor, and passed unanimously, that the Vestry approve the Consent Agenda.

Rector's Report

The Rector's report is attached.

Ms. Melchionna began by inviting questions about her report.

Mrs. Marshall, referring to the work of Father Tim Schenck, asked about the use of his terminology as the parish re-opens. Ms. Melchionna said that she has begun to refer to the re-opening team as the resurrection squad.

The Rector also noted that during the pandemic, the parish has been forced into some different habits and practices that we might want to continue. Ms. Daubert mentioned that the outdoor services, though limited, are very nice.

Ms. Melchionna informed the Vestry that, although the logistics have yet to be determined, Bishop Rodman will visit the parish on Sunday, May 23. In connection with the annual visit, he will also spend some time with the Vestry at their regular monthly Vestry meeting on Thursday, May 20.

On May 31 Ms. Bourne will complete her year as Curate at Chapel of the Cross in the Re-imagining Curacies Program. She will spend next year at St. John's Winston-Salem. Philip Zoutendam, who has been at St. Titus Durham, will be with us next year at Chapel of the Cross. Mawethu Ncaca, who has been at St. John's Winston-Salem, will be at St. Titus Durham, then at Chapel of the Cross the following year.

Attached is a draft of the Racial Equity Resolution for Vestry approval. This resolution is intended as an invitation to parish committees to participate in the work of truth-telling, reconciliation, and healing by "listening to those who have experienced systemic racism and to voices that will open our hearts and minds, learning through study together to discover a fuller picture of our history and how that has contributed to the systemic racism we see in our world, and living into our faith - listening, studying, praying, and taking action to Become a Beloved Community."

Mrs. Pegram asked if committees need to amend their charter to incorporate this resolution. This was not the intent of the resolution, but committees do need to think about how to address the stated issues. The Rector suggested that it would be great to hear back from committees about how they implement the resolution.

It was moved by Mrs. Wollman, seconded by Ms. Flournoy, and passed unanimously, that the Vestry approve the Racial Equity Resolution.

Ms. Melchionna indicated that this information will be forwarded to the standing committees of the Vestry.

Vestry Person of the Week Update

A list of VPOWs through May is found in tonight's Vestry packet. Ms. Turchi will send a reminder list.

Ms. Moseley asked if anyone has been contacted by parishioners during their week as VPOW. Mrs. Wollman asked for clarification. Does the VPOW need to check on Sharepoint to see if parishioners have contacted them? Ms. Moseley replied that all Vestry members will get any emails sent in by parishioners, but only the VPOW needs to respond. Ms. Melchionna added further clarification, saying that although a timely response is appropriate, an immediate answer is not necessary. The VPOW might, for example, acknowledge receipt of the email and say that he/she will look into the matter and give a full response once that has been done.

Finance Committee

The March financial reports are attached.

Ms. Olsen reported that the budget shows strong performance through the first quarter. Revenues are ahead of the previous year by about \$72,000. Although expenses are higher than in the previous year at this time, this can be attributed to the fact that the debt service and transfers to the Capital Fund have already been fully funded for the year, which did not happen until June in 2020.

The balance on the bank loan has been paid in full!

Ms. Aylor presented two motions of the Finance Committee for Vestry approval. The first motion was the recommendation for approval of the revised Finance Committee Charter.

It was moved by the Finance Committee, and passed unanimously, that the Vestry approve the revised Finance Committee Charter.

The second motion was the recommendation for revisions to the Undesignated Gifts Policy that features changes to the funding allocations and the addition of protocols for receipt, thanks, and disbursement of gifts. The policy applies to undesignated gifts and bequests of \$5000 or more. Allocations of these gifts would be 20% to the Program Fund, 30% to the Capital Reserve Fund, 40% to the Endowment (Buildings and Grounds), 5% to Social Ministries, and 5% to Community Outreach Endowment. The full description of the policy, including purpose and process, can be found in the policy attached to these minutes.

It was moved by the Finance Committee, and passed unanimously, that the Vestry approve the revised Undesignated Gifts and Bequests Policy.

Stewardship Committee

Mrs. Craver reported on the work of the subcommittee tasked with the issue of the name change for the William Mercer Green Society. The committee was unanimous in agreement that a name change was necessary because of the historical connection with slavery. The committee conducted research to find out what other churches call such planned giving efforts, sought the advice of specialists in planned giving, and set a goal to include "legacy" in the name and to make the name unique to Chapel of the Cross. The committee determined that 1843, the date of the cornerstone of the chapel, although there is no actual cornerstone, is unique to COTC. There was discussion about the term "society" or "circle." It was thought that "society" perhaps sounds exclusive, while "circle" gives the feeling of being ongoing. The name the committee recommends is the 1843 Legacy Circle.

It was moved by the Stewardship Committee that the Vestry approve the change in name of the William Mercer Green Society to the 1843 Legacy Circle.

A lengthy discussion followed. It was pointed out that, although construction on the chapel was begun in 1843, it was actually 1842 when ten men and ten women signed the original charter for the parish. It was suggested that this is perhaps the more significant date that should be celebrated and one that is less tied to slavery, as the chapel was built with slave labor. It was also suggested that the sign in the parish yard needs to be corrected or updated to reflect the historical information of when the parish was established.

An amendment to the motion was made and approved.

It was moved by Mrs. Craver, seconded by Ms. Daubert, and passed with eleven (11) in favor and one (1) opposed, that the Vestry amend the motion on the table to read that the Vestry approve the change in name of the William Mercer Green Society to the 1842 Legacy Circle.

The Vestry then voted on the amended motion.

It was moved by the Stewardship Committee, and passed unanimously, that the Vestry approve the change in name of the William Mercer Green Society to the 1842 Legacy Circle.

Nave Restoration Update

The Rector suggested to Vestry members that if they haven't yet looked into the church, they should do so, as it is "something to behold."

Ms. Turchi reported that the work on the nave restoration is on time and on budget. Scaffolding was erected beginning on Monday, April 5 and is now complete. Plaster repair will begin next week, to be followed by painting, then caulking and ceiling cleaning. The organ has been covered with plastic for protection. The time frame for the work, according to Mr. Eason, is likely an early to late June completion.

Ms. Melchionna expressed thanks to Mr. Eason for all of his work and attention to detail.

Mr. Eason reported that drawings from the architect and the structural engineer for the firewall project should be in hand within a few days, after which we will need to secure town approval for the project. Funds are available for the project, although not yet raised.

Family Time

Family Time is a time for the Vestry to engage in informal discussion of parishioners who have not been seen at church services recently and share the names of newcomers whom they have recently met, with follow-up assigned as needed. Mrs. Marshall reported that Ellen Cole has informed her of fifteen newcomers recently and another sixteen who have signed up for the email list.

Ms. Melchionna offered a prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 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
- - - Revised Finance Committee Charter
- - - Revised Undesignated Gifts and Bequests Policy
- - - Faith in Action Report, including Minutes of JSC Meeting
- - - Lilly Report
- - - Preschool Report
- - - Parish Life and Worship Report
- - - Christian Formation Report
- - - Music Ministry Report
- - - Family and Youth Ministry Report
- - - Parish Administrator and Stewardship Coordinator's Report
- - - Communications Report
- - - March Treasurer's Report
- - - March Financials