

St. John's Episcopal Church
Sharon, PA
Vestry Minutes
March 13, 2017

Present: Al Seladi, Tracy Schliep, Barb Lipinski, Matt Ciszek, Robert Barletta, Adam Trambley, Keith Rowlands, Gary Funderlich, and Linda Houck.

Absent: Madge Tamber.

Vestry met in All Saints' Chapel for Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm.

Vestry reconvened in the Upstairs Dining Room at 6:55 pm.

The February 13, 2017 minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Schliep to approve and seconded by Lipinski. Motion carried unanimously.

Funderlich continued our discussions on strategic planning. He explained the importance of laying the foundation for strategic planning by crafting a solid mission statement, vision statement, and shared values. We spent some time reviewing mission and vision statements from various non-profit organizations. We discussed our own mission statement, Worship God, Care for People, Grow As Christians, and whether this current meets the needs of the congregation. We moved on to some in-depth discussion of the creation of a vision statement, including the consideration of the following questions:

- What is the scope of St. John's?
- Is the scope inward or outward facing?
- Who is our "target audience"?
- Who are our current members?
- Are we a building? Services? A community?
- Are we a pastoral or programmatic church?

Fr. Trambley explained the differences between pastoral and programmatic churches. These are typically based on the size of the congregation, and St. John's currently sits between the two models. Funderlich closed out our discussion of strategic planning by tasking the Vestry with reviewing the handouts he provided and thinking of vision statements before the next meeting's discussion.

Fr. Trambley provided some updates, including:

- A recent visitor at the 8:00 am service commented on his recollection of taking swimming lessons at the Church as a child, and found us through the website.
- The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper made \$600.
- Asked if anyone had feedback on the Ash Wednesday service in conjunction with First Methodist Church, or any feedback on services so far this season.
 - On the whole the Vestry had positive feedback on Ash Wednesday and agreed that we should continue these types of joint services in the future.
 - Schliep complemented Fr. Adam on sermon series on conflict resolution.
 - Funderlich noted that it appeared we've had more attendance on Sunday mornings. Fr. Trambley reported that the average Sunday attendance for the 8 am service is 43 and the 10 am service is 74.

- Spoke with the Diocesan Office about official policies on guns in church. Each state has different laws and regulations, and the Diocese has no official policy on this. Fr. Trambley asked if creating a "no weapons" policy was something we wanted to consider ourselves. There have been no other issues lately. The Vestry agreed to discuss this issue further at a future meeting.
- He will be gone from March 27-30, 2017 at a national church meeting in Baltimore.
- The Diocese will be hosting a Lenten Prayer Vigil March 17-18, 2017 at St. John's. Everyone is welcome to participate.
- The schedule of Holy Week services was announced.
 - Palm Sunday, 8 am and 10 am
 - Maundy Thursday, 7:30 pm
 - Good Friday, 7:30 pm
 - Easter Vigil, 8 pm
 - Easter Sunday, 8 am and 10 am with egg hunt and children's program between services

Treasurer's Report was reviewed and discussed. The balance sheets for January and February 2017 were reviewed. Lipinski made a motion to approve the report and balance sheets, seconded by Houck. Approved unanimously.

The PNC Investment Booklet is available for anyone who would like to review it. There has been no movement yet of the Alms Fund. We're currently exploring new accounting software and will report at a later meeting on this.

Fr. Trambley distributed the final copy of the parish's Parochial Report for the Diocese. The report was reviewed and a few minor revisions need to be made. Lipinski moved that we accept the Report, with revisions. This was seconded by Seladi and unanimously approved. Rowlands and Cizek signed the report in their capacity as Treasurer and Clerk.

Fr. Trambley provided an update on the Natural Church Development process. Four goals have been put forward to work on the next 6 months:

- Parish conflict resolution
- Thanking people more effectively
- Creation of affinity groups
- Creation of a "photo team" to take pictures at events

A detailed handout on the conflict resolution process was distributed and discussed.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:10 made by Barletta, and seconded by Houck. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted on March 9, 2017 by Matthew Cizek, Clerk.