

Vestry Minutes

July 28, 2024, 11:45 am - 1 PM

Attending: James Ammon, Laura Renshaw, Karen Watts, Angela Breeher, Laura Renshaw, Maddie Nador, Justin Vitale, Darian Wigfall (ex officio), Rebecca Ragland, (es officio)
Guests: David Schuelte, Laura Shields
Absent: Tom Schroeder, Ed Rahe

Motion to accept/second/discuss/vote

Opening - Prayer -RR

Motion to allow guests voice during meeting: KW/MN/ALL

Safe churches training and Witnessing Whiteness brief discussion - Witnessing Whiteness is a training that enables us to delve deeply into our own formation based on race - focusing on those who identify as white. The program is being offered in Sept-October on Zoom. **Angela Breeher, Karen Watts and James Ammon** volunteered to attend. Angela expressed uncertainty if she could commit. The full vestry will be invited to attend alongside other parishes in the Spring.

Approve July meeting agenda LR/KW/ALL

Read/review/ Approve June minutes LR/MN/ALL

Executive Director Report - DW (15 Minutes)

Heigham House - International Institute has identified a family to reside in the house: Mom and 3 teenagers. Darian is working with Abdul to move forward. At this time, the lease is being reviewed by International Institute.

Discussion on pew re-positioning - Bishop has wooden seats available for us to try out. They are stored in St. Charles. We will need to rent a truck for both removal on 8/17 and for pick up of the seats. There are several types so we can try out what we like. There were questions about whether we can use the kneelers or whether the wooden seats would have kneelers. It was agreed that at least some of our pews would continue to have kneelers and would be placed wide enough to actually use them. August 17 is the work day to remove and reorganize pews.

Kelton White Grant update - we continue to procure final bids for the grant. The grant will be submitted to Vestry in August.

Treasurer Report -

motion to accept the report submitted electronically by the treasurer, Tom Schroeder on July 20. KW/LR/Unanimous = all

Sr. Warden's Report - KW (5 minutes)

Community Garden plan Karen is working with Seed St Louis (SeedSTL.org) to make plans for installing and maintaining a community garden on the side lot of the front lawn. She and Darian are working to establish funding and resources for a spring 2025 installation.

Treasurer replacement: Tom has extended his resignation as Treasurer effective as soon as possible. Tom and Pastor Rebecca created a checklist of treasurer tasks and then discussed ways to hire someone to cover many of the things that Tom now does. Tom reached out to Terry Glanz and asked if she would assume these tasks, commit to doing them on Mondays at a pay of \$25/hr. The expectation is that she will complete the tasks at 4 - 6 hrs a week.

Karen reported that there is no one who is willing to assume the roll of interim Treasurer at this time. We are continuing to pray and look.

Jr Warden's Report

Security Update - James has been maintaining the system. Two of our local cameras in the building were stolen this week. They are too easy to grab. He will re-install the common room camera - placing it on the ceiling or too high to grab. The sacristy camera will not be replaced.

Rector Report - RR 15 Minutes

Establishing guidelines for reimbursement (esp of special events - baby shower, brunch, etc) Initial conversation. Pastor Rebecca suggested that we establish guidelines for how purchases are made on behalf of the church to clarify what is reimbursable and how to get permission to buy prior to unusual purchasing. **James Ammon** will present a draft in August.

Christmas Eve - Our music director/organist will be in the UK for Christmas. Pastor Rebecca offered three choices for celebrating Christmas Eve: 1. Reach out to St. Marks and share the service at their location 2. Combine with Metropolitan Congregational Church on Michigan Avenue for an ecumenical service or 3 have a service with a pianist at our church.

Motion to combine with MCCGSTL for an ecumenical service: MN/JA 6 in favor/1 opposed.

Christmas Day service will be youtube Christmas music with a brunch following - as usual.

Hiring/payment guidelines for ED/Rector - James Ammon presented the Guidelines for Hiring and Payment for ED/Rector. There was discussion on final paragraph which reads:

At no time, can the Vestry, Rector, Wardens, or Executive Director initiate or approve the bid of a company whose members, executives or representatives attend St. Paul's.

At no time can a church member or the Executive Director be awarded any contract(s) or project work of over \$10,000 within a single calendar year.

Angela Breeher recommended changing to: work over \$3,000 within a single calendar year.

change to \$3K within a single calendar year. AB/JA/ALL

Full document approved: AB/LR/ALL

- **Next Meeting:** Aug 22, 2024 on ZOOM

Vestry Documents used in July: Treasurer's Report, Agenda, Minutes from June, Hiring/Payment Guidelines for ED/Rector, Rector's Mid Month Report.