

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Scottsboro, Alabama
Minutes of Zoom Vestry Meeting February 9, 2021

Present via Zoom: The Rev. Polly Robb; Brett Bell; Lourie Casteel; Phil Kimmel; Tony Loop; Duke Miller; J.P. Parsons; Charles Heath, Finance Committee Chairman; Mike Harber, Seminarian; and Ann Moody, Clerk. All vestry members were present.

At 5:15 Polly **opened the meeting**, reading "Blessings for a New Beginning" from John O'Donohue's To Bless the Space Between Us.

Tony moved the **minutes of January 18, 2021** be approved, Lou seconded, and all voted in favor.

Charles and Polly reviewed the **financial** situation and Charles reported our year closed in the black despite a deficit budget. Beginning in December, utility bills will be paid by direct draft. Charles left the meeting at 5:36.

Wardens were elected following J.P.'s nomination and Tony's second for Duke to continue as Junior Warden and J.P.'s nomination and Duke's second for Lou to serve as Senior Warden. Tony made the motion that Ann continue as Clerk of the Vestry, J.P. Seconded, and all voted in favor. There will be a Zoom **orientation for the vestry** Sunday afternoon, February 21 at 3:00 to discuss goals. Polly reminded the new vestrymen of *diocesan paperwork* to be completed. *Commissioning* for the new vestry will be done this coming Sunday at our live-streamed service.

Four people are authorized for **check signing**, with one replaced each year. Nancy Gauldin will be replaced by J.P. Parsons this year. Others authorized to sign are Charles Heath, Tim Haston, and Jean Duke.

Melody Reed will be replaced by the vestry's senior warden, Lou, on the Columbarium Committee.

Brett volunteered to serve as vestry coordinator with the youth.

Duke's written report on **buildings and grounds** is in the clerk's notebook. Plans include installing a lock box at the side door of the church to allow after-hour entry to the nave. Other plans include looking into irrigation on the north side of the church and spring cleaning for buildings and grounds before Easter. Tony suggested running irrigation under the walk while replacing the walk.

Lou reminded the group of planned training yet to be done, hoping it can be completed soon. Her complete **Parish Life Report** is in the clerk's notebook. She reported on the Youth's upcoming gumbo fundraiser. Thirty meals have been ordered thus far. Plans are underway for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Polly's wish and plans are for us to be together for Easter. Consideration is being given for a large tent for Holy Week and Easter, with possible outreach programs for the community during the week (blood drive, food pantry), as well as for church services. Cost should run around \$1000 for the tent and chairs. Plans are already underway for another art event this year. Local Art Lady, Sonia Clemons, has ideas to contribute. An Easter vigil is being considered on Easter eve.

The **youth** have been working on Bible studies. They have been helping with the food pantry and at their next meeting, they will burn the palms for Ash Wednesday. They had communion at last week's meeting.

Phil addressed **Outreach**, reporting the ARC members will return Friday, the 12th to work on the food pantry. Melody Reed is happy to continue her work with the pantry. According to Tim Haston, Children's Advocacy Center is doing well.

Tony announced travel for **missions** is still limited. He suggested designating more of our mission funds to help with local concerns. Polly will investigate the Sawyerville program. Some of our youth might want to be involved there.

Polly presented her **rector's report**, announcing hopes of possibly opening the church on a limited basis in March. Ash Wednesday will be a recorded service, and she will have ashes and Ash Wednesday prayers. Plans are for a *calendar* of events posted on the web site. She announced that Realm does not allow all users to read documents so the plans to post *minutes of vestry* meetings on Realm for parishioners will have to be changed. The minutes are posted on the church bulletin board and we can post the minutes on the website with a link for parishioners only to see them. Polly encouraged participation in a Tuesday night or Wednesday morning Zoom **book study** she will lead on Inspired, (author: Rachel Held Evans). As the bishop is now coming on Palm Sunday, Polly will announce that anyone interested in Confirmation can contact her about classes will begin after Ash Wednesday. Seminarian Mike Harber will lead a Sunday evening **men's Zoom Bible study** on the Psalms during Lent. Polly is having lunch with the *Pastoral Association* of Scottsboro on Thursday to discuss some plans for the group. *Pastoral care* continues despite Covid limitations, with home visits, communion, phone calls and texts, and cards.

The meeting closed with the Lord's prayer at 6:49. The next meeting is March 8 via Zoom.

Ann Moody, Clerk