

Minutes of the Vestry

February 11, 2023

Present: The Rev. Polly Robb, Jared Dovers, Brett Bell, JP Parsons, Sherry Holland, Janet Sage, Deb McBride, and Everett Reed

The vestry met on Saturday, February 11 for our monthly meeting and strategic planning. All members were present. Polly took the meeting minutes, as the clerk was not present.

The meeting began with prayer and reflection. Polly read several passages from scripture, allowing time for reflection on what leadership entails in a Christian community.

The next order of business was to approve the vestry minutes from January. JP moved that the minutes be accepted as written, and Brett seconded. The vestry reviewed the January financial report, mentioning areas that our bookkeeper, Alicia, outlined for notice. Many stated their appreciation for Alicia's thorough and thoughtful work. Polly passed out required paperwork to be signed that all members understand what sexual harassment is and agree to refrain from any such behavior.

Next the work of orientation began. New members joined returning members of the vestry in discussing matters of keeping confidences, having discretion on when to discuss our vestry matters, each person working in a reliable, all of us working in a unified manner, and being open to reflecting upon our work.

The vestry then reviewed the 3 main roles of the vestry:

1. The Vestry's canonical roles are twofold:
 - To take care of the parish finances and facilities
 - To take care of the parish rector and to lead when there is no rector.
2. Living out the Vision
3. Modeling Discipleship.

This document is attached.

Vestry of the Day duties were reviewed, remarking how important it is for each vestry member to pay attention to when they are on duty and to accomplish the needed tasks on a Sunday.

The main topic of discussion for this day were revisited our Strategic Planning that we began in 2022. Polly read a recent article on "4 Essential Conditions that Can Help a Parish for the Future," citing areas that St. Luke's may want to discuss such as dreaming of possibilities for the future without fear of failure, and a willingness to be opened up to our blind spots. A larger discussion ensued on the understanding that unity does not require uniformity: "Unity based on uniformity of doctrine or practice defines a community by who's in and who's out and always leads to division. But unity based on Christ's love for us in all our diversity and imperfections defines a community by the One who lies at the center and makes us family."

Two matters of immediate importance were then brought up.

1. Structuring of Committees—a well-functioning parish relies upon groups of persons, rather than individuals, to make decisions and carry out needed work for the benefit of all

members of the parish. Vestry members serve as liaisons to committees. Liaisons should attend committee meetings, and may even need to help the committee lead person to call a meeting and organize an agenda. Liaisons are to listen for ways that the vestry can support a committee's needs report back to the vestry what is going on any needed financial support.

Liaisons in 2023 are as follows:

Mission and Evangelism- JP Parsons and Everett Reed

Outreach – Deb Mc Bride

Pastoral Care – Sherry Holland

Parish Life – Janet Sage

Buildings and Grounds – Brett Bell, as Junior warden

Polly will serve as Youth liaison. Jared will stay on as senior warden.

2. Security Matters

The vestry finished the meeting with a discussion on security, focusing on Sunday mornings during worship services. The diocesan recommendations on reviewing parish security matters were reviewed and discussed. The recommendations are attached. Two upcoming tasks were decided upon from this discussion. Jared will convene a meeting to include a couple of parish members and a representative from our local police or a local security person, along with Polly. The group will make recommendations to the vestry regarding improving awareness of needed security on Sunday mornings as well as during parish activities, especially in the evening. Following this the core of ushers will be gathered to train them on any new duties for Sunday mornings with regard for security.

The meeting concluded with prayer, after which the vestry welcomed spouses and retiring members of the vestry to enjoy dinner and celebration of our work together.

Faithfully submitted,
Polly Robb