

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin, Florida
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting October 27, 2021
6:00PM
Zoom

Our Mission and Vision

We will

- Aspire to live in a world where all creation thrives in God's love,
- Seek to become who God created us to be by worshipping joyfully, respecting all, sharing generously and nurturing every spirit.

Rector: The Rev. Whitney Burton

Senior. Warden: Phil Beauchamp

Junior Warden: Dan Depies

Deacon: Cindy Roehl

Treasurer: Joe Nixon

Clerk: C. Pat Cates

Class of 2022

Phil Beauchamp

Robyn Harker

Tammi Wrest

Class of 2023

Dan Depies

London Bates

Judy Warner

Class of 2024

Robin Megel

Caroline Maisel

Rhiannon Sharpe

Absent: None

Guests: None

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Rev. Whitney at 6:09PM.

II. Opening Devotions

- The Opening Devotion was given by Judy Warner.

III. Information

A. Financial Report

- Handouts #1A and #1B
- Robin Megel reported that October has been a good month with five Sundays bringing in an approximate income of \$22K.
- She reported that Joe Nixon predicted that there will be \$29K in the operating account at the end of this month.
- November could be problematic with only four Sundays and a \$6K property tax expense on the Sexton's property.

- The operating account could potentially be down to around \$10K at the end of November.
- Joe Nixon recommends that the final draw of \$32K be taken from the Endowment Fund.
- Rev. Whitney explained that a request for an Endowment Fund draw can be made either by her or the Wardens.
- Judy Warner moved to approve the second draw of \$32K from the Endowment Fund; seconded by Robin Megel.
- Approved.
- Working Group report
- Rev. Whitney gave a brief report on the group which is looking at the Endowment Fund and the Operating Reserves.
- They met approximately a week ago and while there is no recommendation at this point, the group is looking in the direction of suggesting that the Vestry consider a goal for the Operating Reserves.
- The group will probably propose to the Vestry that the Operating Reserves not go below a set amount except in an emergency.
- Once the group reports, the Vestry should develop a policy to address Operating Reserves and what action to take in the event that the balance goes below a set amount.
- Once developed, the policy should be reevaluated around August in anticipation of it being need at the end of the year.
- The Working Group will be meeting again in the near future.
- They will look closer at the issue of where to get monies if the operating account gets low—Operating Reserves or Endowment Fund.
- Budget Timeline
- Handout #2
- Approved by consensus.

B. Vestry Liaison Report

- Tammi Wrest gave a detailed report for the Exalt Team for Worship and Music.
- There are currently 15 Acolytes. A training class was held in September and another could be scheduled in the near future.
- More young people are getting involved.
- Chalicists will be needed in the future as the services expand.
- Tammi was unable to talk with a member of the Altar Guild but Caroline Maisel reported that everything is going well with them.
- Currently there are enough Ushers but more will be needed when the services expand.
- The Choir begins rehearsal tomorrow.
- Flower Ministry—upon clarification of the number to reach persons involved with this ministry, Tammi will give them a call.
- There are currently ten handbell ringers, and they will play this Sunday and are preparing for the Carol Sing in December.

- There are currently 21 persons reading the scripture and the Prayers of the People. Training has been one on one, and Deacon Cindy is considering a refresher training course.
- Twelve homes are being visited by the Pastoral Care Team. There are six active teams which will become seven when the Canadians return. Helen Marie Heald reported that 12 is the maximum number of visits that can be made.
- The Worship Planning Team has 12 members and have been meeting regularly.
- Robin Megel was reminded that she will have the report at the November meeting.

C. Parish Administrator Search

- Judy Warner reported that a potential candidate for the position withdrew due to the drive time.
- The Personnel Committee reexamined resumes that had previously been submitted and interviewed a potential candidate from this group.
- The Committee was in favor of offering this person the position.
- Rev. Whitney will be contacting Joe Nixon to work out the financial package and then she will contact the candidate with an offer.
- If the person accepts the offer it is hoped that she can transition into the position before Dawn Gordon leaves.

D. Stewardship Report

- Judy Warner reported that the Stewardship Campaign kicked off last Sunday with Rev. Whitney preaching and Chris Schombs giving a Stewardship testimonial.
- A successful reception was also held.
- Canon Chris Gray will be preaching this Sunday.
- Pledge cards have been sent out.
- The Stewardship Campaign will end on November 14th.
- It was suggested that a thank you card be sent to Chris Schombs for his testimonial.
- Caroline Maisel will write a thank you card for Chris and will place it in her mail box.
- Members of the Vestry are asked to sign the card this Sunday.

E. Ministry Fair

- Robin Megel reported that there are 30 ministries participating in this event on November 14th.
- The organizational committee will finalize their plans soon.
- Vestry members are asked to bring finger food and circulate around the displays if they are not in participating in a display.

F. Rector's Report

- A successful Peace Walk was recently held.
- Dawn Gordon's last day will be November 12th. There will be a reception for Dawn on Sunday, November 7th.
- Joe Nixon has asked to be relieved of his duties on the Parking Lot Team and suggestions were solicited to fill this important ministry.
- The Small Group Gatherings have begun again following a brief hiatus.
- The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at 6:30PM on Thursday, November 18th at the Dunedin Presbyterian Church.
- Deacon Cindy will lead an Advent series tentatively scheduled for Monday afternoons. The study will be based on an Advent Devotional by Walter Brueggemann.
- There are 15-20 members attending the Adult Sunday School.
- It is planned to have an Advent newsletter soon.
- Rev. Whitney spoke briefly on the Diocesan requirement concerning members who should take the "Safeguarding God's Children" and "Safeguarding God's People" training.

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IV. Decision

A. Consent Items

- September Regular Meeting minutes—approve
- Motion to approve by Robyn Harker; second by Dan Depies
- Approved
- Check Signer—Robin Megel
- Treasurer Joe Nixon requested that Robin Megel be approved as the Assistant Treasurer and authorized to sign checks.
- A motion was made by Phil Beauchamp and seconded by Caroline Maisel.
- Approved.
- Carport
- Handout #3
- On behalf of Building and Grounds, Dan Depies brought a proposal for a carport for the Rectory. The carport will not have side panels.
- The total cost will be \$3800 and has been approved by the Finance Committee.
- Treasurer Joe Nixon recommended that the monies be taken from the Diocesan Tithe Rebate Account.
- Moved by Robin Megel with a second by Judy Warner.
- Approved.

V. Discussion

A. Property

- Solar Panels
- Dan Depies reported that Building and Grounds conducted a study in 2019 to Determine Economic Feasibility of Implementing Solar Electric Power at Good Shepherd. David Thornton was instrumental in developing a proposal.
- David met with Alan Brand, a solar electric power engineer, in fall 2019.
- Five contractors were requested to submit bids and three responded with proposals.
- Building and Grounds reviewed the proposals and David prepared an Economic Study to Normalize the Proposals' Cost and Benefit.
- Building and Grounds concluded that solar power at Good Shepherd is feasible. Contractor 3D Solar provided the best package with a cost of \$164,430 which included financing options.
- The economic study showed a break-even time of about 11.25 years.
- This information was present to the Vestry in June 2020, and the Vestry was interested in moving forward with solar power but felt that it might not be the best time to pursue this with the search for a new Rector in progress.
- Building and Grounds is asking the Vestry for current feedback on the use of solar power.
- There was a lengthy discussion held on this topic.
- Among the items discussed were the feasibility of placing panels on the existing roof, insurance for the panels, future roof repairs, material shortages and the expenditure of these monies during a time of stewardship and a deficit budget.
- It was consensus of the Vestry to keep open the discussion on solar power and revisit the issue in six months.
- RV parked in Peace Park.
- There is no change in plans to have the RV moved from Peace Park. Dan Depies reported that the owner is still not cooperating and that the RV is currently not locked and is deteriorating.
- Rev. Whitney, Phil Beauchamp and London Bates have been in discussions with Dan Depies concerning the hiring of an attorney to deal with this situation. London has suggested two attorneys, and Dan will contact both concerning their fees and scope of work.
- Once an attorney is hired, he/she will communicate directly with the owner of the RV.
- It was reported that another camper is in the area. After a brief discussion Rev. Whitney informed the Vestry that the owner has been contacted and anticipates that it will be removed soon.

- The Vestry expressed concern that other vehicles may be parked on the lot, and there was no discussion at this time to handle future vehicles.
- Ice Maker
- Building and Grounds discussed the ice machine in their latest meeting and proposed that the current machine be removed from the campus and will reevaluate the need for this machine in six months.
- The ice machine costs \$345 per quarter for rental and maintenance. It will cost \$1380 to purchase the machine currently in Kirk Hall. A new machine will have a higher cost. Neither would have service and maintenance as part of the price.
- It was determined that the ice machine was not a critical component of the Emergency Plan and after consultation, Frank Kneen reported that his needs could be met if an ice maker were connected to one of the refrigerators currently at the church.
- There was a brief discussion on the ice machine and some members felt that there should be more discussions pertaining to the removal of the ice machine.
- Dan Depies will report back to Building and Grounds that the Vestry is not in favor of removing the current machine and there was support for purchasing a new machine.
- Lift (Elevator)
- Dan Depies reported that there is movement on repairs to the elevator and some options are now available.
- Gutters have been installed on the Education Building.
- The next step will be to weatherproof the lift which will require some added expenditures. Garry Lumm is in the process of getting bids.
- The consensus of Building and Grounds is to fix the motor at a cost of \$5.5K to \$7K.
- A Mission Moment may be planned to determine the interest of the congregation in seeing repairs and possibly obtaining financial support from the members.

B. Live Streaming

- During the discussion of the Parish Administrator a member asked about any plans to take over streaming once the Intern has finished his commitment.
- The Intern is currently running the live streaming of both services and working on the website, Social Media and a newsletter template.
- It is anticipated that a newsletter will be ready for Advent.
- The Intern will be here through the end of November.
- There was a lengthy discussion on the future of the worship services live streaming.

- It was noted that it would be helpful to have a person work with the live streaming once the Intern is gone.
- A question was raised as to whether the current Intern could be hired to fill this position. At this point it is not known if this could happen.
- The discussion centered around which services to live stream and whether there is money in the budget to pay a person.
- Judy Warner will determine under which Vestry Liaison live streaming falls. She will report at the next meeting suggestions for what is needed in this area and what can be afforded.

C. Next meeting—Zoom or in-person?

- It was consensus that meetings either be held all on Zoom or all in person.
- Rev. Whitney will poll the members in the next few weeks to determine if the next Vestry meeting will be live or on Zoom.

VI. Planning

A. Stewardship Kickoff—October 24, 2021

B. Ministry Fair—November 14, 2021

VII. Announcements

- A question was asked pertaining to a survey of the parish property. Dan Depies reported that there is probably not a current survey.
- It was suggested that the Vestry begin looking for persons to run for the Vestry class of 2025. It was also suggested that consideration be given for Endowment Board members and delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

VIII. Closing Devotions

- The Closing Devotion was given by Judy Warner

IX. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:54PM.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Pat Cates
Clerk