

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin, Florida
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting September 22, 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 6:00PM.

II. Opening Devotions

- The Opening Devotion was given by Rhiannon Sharpe.

III. Information

A. Financial Report

- Robin Megel, Assistant Treasurer, reported that the balance in the Operating Account is \$41,440 and will be at \$38K at the end of the month according to Treasurer Joe Nixon.
- There was a brief discussion about the monthly Finance Committee report. It was noted that it would be most helpful to receive the current minutes even if they have not been approved by the Finance Committee.

- Rev. Whitney reported that a Task Force has been organized to look at Operating Reserves, the Endowment Fund and other financial issues.
- The Task Force will include members of the Vestry, Finance Committee and the Endowment Board. Joe Nixon will also serve.
- Rev. Whitney noted that the Rector's Discretionary Fund is down from last year, and she asked for input from the Vestry to increase the contributions to this fund.
- There was a brief discussion which included giving opportunities to persons who are watching online an avenue for giving. In addition, it was suggested that a Mission Moment be shared to stress the importance of this fund.

B. Parish Administrator Search

- Judy Warner reported that the members of the Personnel Committee are Rev. Whitney, Mary Ratliff, Pat Cates and herself.
- It is the intention of the Committee to have a person hired before Dawn Gordon leaves in mid-November.
- The position has been posted in several places including the parish newsletter, Facebook and the Diocese website.
- There have not been many resumes received, and it is anticipated that the Committee will need to post in other venues including Linked IN, Next Door and the Dunedin Patch.
- Rev. Whitney requested that the members inform her if they have other ideas concerning this position.

C. Stewardship Report

- Judy Warner reported that the Stewardship theme is "Faith in Our Future". She shared the logo with the group.
- Tom Huffman will be selecting a theme song to be used in the campaign.
- The first Sunday will be October 24th and Rev. Whitney will preach. Chris Schombs will be the witness, and a reception will follow.
- On October 31st Canon Gray will preach.
- On November 7th Rev. Whitney will preach and Rhiannon Sharpe will be the witness.
- November 14th is the last Sunday and Rev. Whitney will preach and the witnesses will be Sandy and Frank Kneen. A Ministry Mission Fair is scheduled for this Sunday.

D. Vestry Liaison Report

- Dan Depies presented a report on "Enterprise".
- The Furniture Thrift Store is doing well with sales over budget and expenses under budget.
- He communicates regularly with Dave Dube who also reported that the Furniture Thrift Store is doing well.

- The Episcopal Church Women have decided that they will close the Little Thrift Shop and will do some praying and visioning to see what their next priority is.
- They are going to sell the store fixture (currently in storage) and possibly hold a sale at the church to sell the merchandise in their inventory.
- Rev. Whitney will keep the Vestry informed of future activities.

E. Rector's Report

- Deacon Cindy and Rev. Whitney recently visited Dunedin Cares and presented them with a check for \$5500.
- The grandson of Terry and Indra Eldridge was baptized at the 10:00AM service today.
- Formation classes began on September 12th.
- There were eighteen adults in attendance this past Sunday with an equal number of participants from the 8:00 and 10:00 worship services. They are studying the Gospel of Luke.
- Six youth participated in the recent Bowling trip. Rev. Whitney is hoping to offer one event each month for the youth.
- There was one 5th grader, three middle school students and two high school students in the group.
- Tom Huffman, newly hired Organist/Choirmaster, will begin work this Monday. His first Sunday will be October 3rd which is also the Blessing of the Animals.
- There have been discussions on the singing choir and handbell choir in regards to Covid guidelines.
- Face masks are required of all participants.
- There was a lengthy discussion on the possible requirement that all members of the singing choir will be fully vaccinated.
- Currently the Diocese is requiring masks but not vaccinations.
- London Bates reported that there is no legal precedent for requiring the choir be fully vaccinated but that it can be strongly recommended.
- Guidance is needed from the Diocese.
- Rev. Whitney will have further discussions with Tom Huffman on vaccines and masks.
- The United Faith Walk of Peace committee recently dedicated a pole in Peace Park.
- The Community Thanksgiving service will be held November 18th at the First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin. Rev. Whitney will preach. The service is tentatively scheduled to begin at 6:30PM and will be live and streamed. Masks will be required.
- The Mission and Ministry Directory is completed and has been placed around the parish. Rev. Whitney thanked the Vestry for their work in the completion of this booklet.

IV. Decisions

A. Consent Items

- August Regular Meeting minutes—approve
- There was a question regarding the discussion of the Operating Reserves when the Task Force assembles. It was noted that this will be discussed as part of the Task Force's agenda.
- There was also a question on the procedure for requesting monies from the Endowment Fund. Rev. Whitney replied that monies can be requested from the Treasurer once there is a request from the Vestry.
- Neither of these two items affected the minutes on the floor for approval.
- Judy Warner moved to approve the August minutes; seconded by Dan Depies.
- Approved.

B. Intern

- Rev. Whitney reported that the services have been streamed for the last year and a half.
- Carey Cherivtch has been working with the streaming since it began and is possibly beginning to burn out.
- In addition, Carey needs to be free to work with the Sunday School.
- The parish has been looking for someone to assist with this task, and Carey has found a potential candidate to serve as an Interim.
- His name is Joseph Bonner, and he is a Senior at St. Pete College and is studying Digital Design. He is well versed in technology.
- Rev. Whitney proposed that Joseph be hired for a period of eleven weeks and be paid a stipend of \$1200 which will include his FICA and Medicare.
- He will serve at both services and will also be given other duties in order for him to complete the required 60 hours as an Intern.
- These additional duties will include the Website and setting the templates for a planned quarterly newsletter.
- There was a brief discussion which included Joseph's qualifications, whether there needed to be a contract with the College and the amount of his compensation.
- Included in this discussion were remarks that the church's live streaming has and continues to experience problems. It is anticipated that Joseph will be able to resolve some or all of the problems currently being experienced.
- It was noted that Joe Nixon has indicated that his stipend can be paid through the Personnel Budget.
- A question was raised concerning the status of live streaming following Joseph's time as an Intern.

- This is an issue that will be need to be addressed, and it was recommended that this topic be included in the October's meeting agenda.
- Robin Megel made a motion to approve the hiring of Joseph Bonner as an Intern for eleven weeks at the salary of \$1200 which will include FICA and Medicare.
- Seconded by Judy Warner
- Approved.

C. Fundraising Request—Bells of Hope

- The request has been approved by the Finance Committee.
- Robin Megel moved to approve the Fundraising Request as proposed.
- Seconded by Robyn Harker.
- Approved.

V. Discussion

A. Property—Peace Park

- Dan Depies reported that the owner of the RV did not remove the vehicle per the previous agreement and told Dan that she is currently quarantined for Covid.
- It was decided not to push the issue under these circumstances.
- The owner told Dan that she is hopeful to follow through with the agreement.
- However, she will not communicate with Dan on the telephone or in person and will only text with him.
- Dan realizes that the owner is probably not going to cooperate and is asking the Vestry to back him in the hiring of an attorney should this be necessary to get the RV moved.
- London Bates reported that the Vestry has shown a great deal of patience and restraint with this person and if an attorney is needed one must be hired who specializes in this work, and she will be glad to assist Dan in finding a person.
- London will help Dan compose a text which will state in appropriate terms that the RV must be removed by a date (to be determined) or an attorney will be hired by the parish to bring the matter to a conclusion.
- Dan told the Vestry that the church will have to initially pay the attorney's fees, and it is doubtful if the owner will reimburse the church for these fees. It is important that the church get a legal judgment on this issue.
- Another option is for the RV owner to turn the Title over to the church in order that it can be removed from the property.
- Rev. Whitney will be notified of all steps which will be taken.

- It was the consensus of the Vestry to support Dan's communication with the RV owner that the vehicle must be removed by a certain date or an attorney will be hired.

B. Next Meeting—Zoom or in-person?

- After a brief discussion it was consensus to hold the October Vestry meeting on Zoom.
- Beginning in November the meeting arrangement will be looked at month to month to take into consideration the current Covid situation.
- The October meeting will be held on October 27th; the November meeting on November 17th and the December meeting on December 15th.

VI. Planning

A. Stewardship Kickoff—October 24, 2021

B. Ministry Fair—November 14, 2021

VII. Announcements

- Robyn Harker thanked the Vestry for the beautiful Peace Lily.

VIII. Closing Devotions

- The Closing Devotion was given by Rhiannon Sharpe.

IX. Adjournment

- It was noted that Judy Warner will have the devotion at the October meeting and Tammi Wrest will have the Vestry Liaison report.
- The meeting was adjourned by Rev. Whitney at 7:43PM

Respectfully submitted,

C. Pat Cates
Clerk