

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin, Florida
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting December 15, 2021
6:00PM
Patio Room

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 Pat Cates

III. Information

A. Financial Report

- Handouts #1A and #1B
- Robin Megel gave a brief financial report.
- She reported that the Operating Account is right on budget and expenses are under budget.
- Sales at the Furniture Thrift Store are up by 18% over last year.
- As of today, there is \$47K in the Operating Account.
- \$64K was drawn from the Endowment Fund in 2021.

B. Vestry Liaison Report

- Robyn Harker reported on “Joy”.
- Due to Covid this ministry has not been very active.
- The Bodacious Breakfast has not been held, but there are plans to begin it again. In the future it will not be held every month as in the past. There is an urgent need for volunteers if the breakfast is to be successful.
- Thirty persons attended the last Coffee Hour after the 10:00AM Worship Service.
- Future coffee hours will consist of pastries, coffee and tea.
- Volunteers are needed for this ministry; at the present there are not enough volunteers to plan a schedule for servers.
- Special events such as dinners and game nights may be started within the next few months. Cheryl Sharpe is the contact for special events.
- Sandy and Frank Kneen will continue their work with the Bodacious Breakfast and the Coffee Hour.
- The Episcopal Church Women of COGS met on Monday to approve distributions for 2022.
- It is their plan to combine the three accounts of the ECW into one account.
- Miriam Benitez-Nixon will be leading the ECW.
- More information will be presented as it become available.

C. Stewardship Report

- Judy Warner reported that 92 pledges have been received for a total of \$245K. This is the highest monetary number for pledges.
- Several pledges were received as a result of the last letter which was sent out.

D. Rector’s Report—see Report in Vestry Packet

- Handout #2
- Rev. Whitney gave a report on the Operating Reserves Committee.
- The Committee recently held a very successful meeting.
- Members are Phil Beauchamp, London Bates, Robin Megel, Joe Nixon, Shirl Ahrens, Andrea Zahn, Carolyn Hughes and Rev. Whitney.
- The Committee made the following recommendations:
 - ✓ Operating Reserves are at \$58K.
 - ✓ Have confidence in the Endowment Board’s presence. The Endowment Board sees their fund as a support for the parish.
 - ✓ When funds are needed, it is up to the Vestry to designate where the funds should be taken from.

- ✓ The Vestry and Budgeting Committee should evaluate each year whether or not to include the 4% Endowment distribution in the budget.

IV. Decision

A. Consent Items

- November Regular Meeting minutes—approve
- Motion to approve by Judy Warner; second by Phil Beauchamp.
- Approved
- Budget—Handout #3
- Page 1 (#4020 Unidentified Offerings): The figure was reduced to \$2K based upon recent pledge information.
- Page 2 (#5110) Rector Stipend): This figure includes \$600 per year to help with expenses relative to Rev. Whitney's personal cell phone professional usage.
- Page 3 (#5210 Salary, Parish Administrator): The \$50K is a total package figure for this position, including salary, Social Security, retirement, etc. The actual package total may vary from this figure.
- There was a brief discussion concerning the Parish Administrator's health insurance.
- Porcia Gawel, Parish Administrator, is interested in the health insurance plan offered through the parish. She is currently on her husband's health insurance plan.
- There are two options available. (1) the parish health insurance of which the church's portion would be \$10K or (2) pay the approximate \$400 premium (\$4800 per year) which is required for Porcia to be covered under her husband's policy.
- The second option would be a considerable savings to the parish.
- Rev. Whitney will talk with Porcia concerning the two options and report back to the Vestry at the January meeting.
- The Finance Committee is recommending that the Vestry approve the budget at this meeting.
- Robin Megel made a motion to approve the budget as presented. A second was given by London Bates.
- Approved.
- Gift Approval—Renewable Energy
- Handout #4
- Robyn Harker moved to approve a gift of \$5000 from Barbara and James Groff to be used to assess for, prepare for, or acquire and maintain solar energy capabilities at the Church of the Good Shepherd. If, after one year from the date of the gift, a solar feasibility study has not been conducted, the gift may be used at the discretion of the Vestry to explore other opportunities to assess or lessen COG's carbon footprint such as (but not limited to) an energy audit. There is no time limit to use of the gift.

- Second by London Bates
- Approved

V. Discussion

A. Property

- Dan Depies gave an update on the RV.
- A parishioner has the title and a potential buyer.
- The goal is to put air in the tires and fill with gas in order that it can be driven out of Peace Park.
- When the RV is off the property the buyer will be given the title.
- The removal of the RV has been without cost to the parish.

B. Candidates for Vestry

- Robyn Harker and Phil Beauchamp will seek re-election to the Vestry.
- This will leave one open position.
- The parish bylaws have specific information concerning the election of Vestry candidates.
- Information for prospective candidates will be given out next week, and the Vestry will set the deadline for submission of applications.
- It was requested that the Vestry re-evaluate the current application for future applicants. Applicants for this election will use the current application.
- Positions on the Endowment Board and Diocesan Convention candidates are included in the upcoming elections.
- The Vestry was reminded that according to the bylaws no candidates can be nominated from the floor.

C. New Service and Vestry

- Rev. Whitney reported on a plan to combine the Saturday Celtic Service and the Wednesday Morning Worship Service.
- Attendance at each service is approximately 5-7 worshippers.
- Rev. Whitney has been in discussion with the leaders of the parish and the Worship Committee.
- The response has been encouraging, and there is support to combine these two services.
- The plan is to have one service which will be held on Wednesday at 6:00PM.
- The Celtic Kirk and Wednesday service will continue through the month of January.
- The Wednesday evening service will begin in February and will be evaluated after a month.
- The Wednesday evening service will impact current Vestry meetings.

- After a brief discussion it was consensus to hold the January meeting on January 26, 2022 at 5:30PM.
- Beginning in February the Vestry meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month. The February meeting will be held February 7th at 5:30PM.

D. Covid Protocols

- The Bishop has given some guidance on Covid Protocols concerning masks with an option to “strongly encourage masks but not require them”.
- While some parishes in the Deanery have lessen mask restrictions the Bishop feels strongly about masking especially at Christmas.
- He recommended that any mask restrictions not be lessened until after Christmas.
- Wardens Beauchamp, Depies and Rev. Whitney would like for masks to be required through Christmas.
- Approved by consensus.
- This policy will be re-evaluated by the Vestry in January.

VI. Planning

A. Vestry Retreat Dates

- Two dates have been proposed for the Vestry Retreat: March 4-5 and March 11-12, 2022.
- It was consensus to hold the retreat on March 4-5, 2022.

VII. Announcements

- The Clerk read a thank you card from Robin Megel to the Vestry.

VIII. Closing Devotions

- The Closing Devotion was given by Pat Cates

IX. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned by Rev. Whitney at 7:28PM.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Pat Cates
Clerk