

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin, Florida

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting January 22, 2020

Members Present: Pastor Becky Robbins-Penniman, Deacon Cindy Roehl, Bill Blizzard, Joe Nixon, Cheryl Sharpe, Dan Depies, Jim Ratliff, Robyn Harker, Diane Niford, Pat Cates (clerk)

Call-in participant: John Russotto

Guests: Iris Brookins

Members Absent: Phil Beauchamp

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Pastor Becky Robbins-Penniman at 6:32PM

II. Opening Devotions and Spiritual Journey

- The opening devotion and spiritual journey was given by Jim Ratliff.

III. Information

A. Mark Your Calendars

- **January 26, 2020: “Shining Our Light”** Stewardship Season begins
- **January 26:** United Faiths Walk of Peace @ 2:00PM to 5:00PM
- **February 9: 2020 Annual Parish Meeting**
- **February 12: Vestry Photo, Organizational Meeting & Regular Meeting**
- **February 16: “Shining Our Light”** Stewardship Season Gathering Sunday
- **February 16: Commissioning of ALL Elected Leaders** at the service of your choice
- **February 26:** Ash Wednesday
- **March 13 & 14: Vestry Retreat**
- **March 29: 5th Sunday Vestry Coffee Hour & New Member Colloquium**
- **April 12:** Easter
- **April 19: New Member Social @ 4:00 to 6:00PM**

B. Vestry Candidates—4 notices received by deadline: Iris Brookins, Dan Depies, Judy Warner and London Bates

IV. Decision

A. Consent Items

- December 11, 2019 Regular minutes—approve

- Cheryl Sharpe moved for approval; Bill Blizzard seconded.
- Approved

B. Donor-Advised Fund Distributions “where needed most”—where put?

- Carlson Family Trust: \$5,000
- Armil/Wargo Family Fund: \$250
- Handout #2 and #3 from Fidelity Charitable
- Joe Nixon explained that a Donor-Advised Fund is set up by a family or group to set aside monies which become tax deductible and will be distributed at a later time to charitable organizations.
- The two checks as specified above were designated “Where it’s needed most”.
- There was a short discussion as to where these monies should be placed.
- At the recommendation of Joe it was consensus to place these monies in Vestry Designated.

C. Investment of Reserve Funds

- Recommendation—approve
- Jim Ratliff gave several options for investment of the funds.
- He noted that the Vestry needs to determine whether the entire funds or a portion of the funds will be needed during this calendar year.
- Jim recommends that the monies be placed into a Charles Schwab SCHD account which is a high dividend account that trades like a stock.
- The SCHD yields a dividend of approximately 3%.
- After a lengthy discussion it was consensus to invest the entire \$62K in a Charles Schwab account.
- Jim reported that the next step for the Vestry is to determine whose names will go on the Corporate Resolution.
- It was agreed that Joe Nixon and Cheryl Sharpe will be on the Corporate Resolution.
- Robyn Harker moved that the Vestry open an account with Charles Schwab and that the signature names to go on the Corporate Resolution will be Joseph P. Nixon and Cheryl L. Sharpe.
- The motion was seconded by Jim Ratliff.
- Approved.

V. Discussion

A. Church Insurance—“Alacrity” incentive program

- Handouts #4; #4A; #4B; #4C
- Through Handout #4B Pastor Becky explained a streamlined process for filing a claim after a catastrophic occurrence such as a hurricane, tornado or extensive water damage.

- After a loss, a claim is filed with Church Insurance who opens a claim.
- Church Insurance contacts Alacrity who is restorative/repair service, a “middle man”.
- A contractor is assigned; they look at the loss and approve the estimate.
- The work is then completed.
- The advantage of being in this system is that most churches don’t have the expertise to deal with a major loss.
- Becky went over the details of the program as explained in Handout #4C.
- On the back of this handout is a listing of contractors.
- Becky also noted that there is a video that the Vestry may want to view.
- The Vestry is interested in pursuing this program but does feel that someone with an insurance background should look over the details.
- Joe Nixon will ask Cal Ringquist to look over the program and report back to the Vestry at its next meeting.

VI. Planning

A. Annual Meeting—Theme ideas; focus for Rector’s “State of the Parish”

- Shining Our Light and/or We Are Family
- Review proposed agenda
 - Table activity?
- Theme: Shining our Light on our Church Family
- Handout #5 shows the agenda from 2019 and the proposed agenda for 2020.
- Becky went over the draft agenda and emphasized who is responsible for each presentation.
- She asked for ideas for a table activity which should dovetail with the theme of shining our light on our church family with an emphasis on the parish as a church family.
- After a brief discussion it was suggested that each of the twelve tables have a puzzle to assemble which highlight an activity in the parish. The puzzles should feature as many parishioners as possible.
- The puzzles should also be no more than 25-30 pieces.
- After further discussion it was decided that the twelve table puzzles will be combined to form one large puzzle.
- The table puzzle activity will be completed first and followed by the video presentation.

B. Transition Team--update

- Cheryl Sharpe reported that the Transition Team met in December.
- The team members are Scott Hood, Andrea Zahn and Cheryl Sharpe.

- They reviewed the Parish Profile and are currently reviewing the Rector Search Plan.
- Within the Team there are four committees:
- Scott Hood is chair of Compensation.
- Andrea Zahn is chair of the Parish Survey.
- Miriam Benitez-Nixon and Dawn Gordon are working on the Parish Profile.
- The OTM Committee (which summarizes the desires of the Parish) is being led by Cheryl Sharpe.
- The next meeting of the Team will be on February 3rd.
- Canon Norman reported to the Team that the Search Committee for the new Rector has to follow the guidelines of the Diocese.
- The Search Committee must be composed of non-Vestry members.
- The Search Committee will submit three candidate names to the Vestry for their decision.
- At the appropriate time, Pastor Becky will submit her letter of retirement to the Vestry.
- The Vestry will approve the letter and forward it to Canon Norman who will then schedule a meeting with the Wardens and the Vestry.
- Pastor Becky shared her recent conversation with the Bishop.
- This was followed by a short discussion of retirement particulars including a goodbye reception for the snowbirds, details relative to Deacon Cindy Roehl and the supply Rector.
- There will be many details to complete before Becky's official retirement.

C. Vestry Retreat: Topic and Focus

- Pastor Becky asked for ideas for topics at the annual retreat.
- After a brief discussion it was consensus to have as the topic, "planning for every contingency during the interim".
- The focus of the retreat will be on communicating within the Vestry and communicating with the Parish.

D. Dunedin Council of Organization participation—Vestry member participation

- Pastor Becky asked for any member's participation in the DCO
- She would like for a volunteer to attend the meetings.
- The meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:00AM from September to May.
- There were a few questions but no volunteers.
- It will be placed on the February agenda.

VII. Closing Devotions

- The closing devotion was given by Jim Ratliff

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:54PM

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Pat Cates
Clerk