

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin, Florida

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting June 24, 2020

Note: Due to Coronavirus guidelines on Social Distancing the meeting was held online via Zoom, Meeting ID: 987 7765 7587

Members Present: Pastor Becky Robbins-Penniman, Deacon Cindy Roehl, Phil Beauchamp, London Bates, Iris Brookins, Cheryl Sharpe, Dan Depies, Robyn Harker, Diane Niford, John Russotto, Judy Warner, Joe Nixon (treasurer), Pat Cates (clerk)

Guest: David Thornton

Members Absent: None

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Pastor Becky Robbins-Penniman at 6:30PM

II. Opening Devotions

- The Opening Devotion was given by Cheryl Sharpe

III. Information

A. Solar Project Presentation on behalf of B & G

- Handout #1
- David Thornton gave background information and the economic feasibility study of installing solar electric power at Good Shepherd.
- He and Butch Niford met with Alan Brand in 2019. Alan is a mechanical engineer involved with solar power in Dunedin.
- Alan recommended a list of solar contractors.
- Building and Grounds contacted five of the contractors and received estimates from three which are outlined in the handout.
- Based upon this information it was concluded that solar power is feasible at Good Shepherd.
- Of the three contractors who submitted bids, 3D Solar was determined to have the lowest cost and highest benefit.
- David gave a detailed analysis of each page of the handout.
- After going through the handout David offered additional information.
- There will have to be a structural study of the roof to determine its adequacy to support solar panels. This will be needed to obtain the building permit for solar installation. The cost of this study is included in the bids from Solar Energy Management and 3D Solar.
- It should be noted that the roofs involved are those of the Education Building and Kirk Hall. No panels will be placed on the Sanctuary roof.

- After the structural study is completed there may have to be work to reinforce the roofs. The cost for possible work is not known at this time.
- Any modifications deemed necessary to the roofs will be completed by Building and Grounds.
- The installation is expected to take from 8 to 10 weeks following the signing of the contract.
- The next step for the Vestry is to select a contractor and meet with a structural engineer concerning the roof.
- There were a number of questions posed to David by the members. These included visibility of the panels from the street; damage to panels during a storm; insurance; fire possibility; removal of the panels in anticipation of any roofing repairs; warranties; monthly payments; electric savings and references.
- It was noted that Alan Brand is an excellent reference.
- It was also noted that the solar electric power will only cover the Sanctuary, Kirk Hall and the Education Building.
- The Rectory and Sexton's residence are on separate electric meters.

B. Mark Your Calendars

- **Every Sunday:** Services live-streamed at 8 & 10
- **Next Vestry Meeting: July 22, 2020**
- August Vestry meeting will be August 26.

C. Financial Report

- Handouts #2A and #2B
- Joe Nixon reported that contributions in May were at an all-time high: \$45K.
- The Furniture Thrift Store is open and will need to make a mortgage payment next month.
- The Little Thrift Shop remains closed.
- The Diocesan Tithe is up to date.

IV. Decision

A. Consent Items

- May 20,2020 Regular Meeting minutes—approve
- A motion to approve was made by Robyn Harker; seconded by Cheryl Sharpe.
- Approved

V. Discussion

A. Peace Park parcel offer

- Handout #3
- Dan Depies spoke of the proposal by Mike and Lorina Balint to buy a portion of the property on the Peace Park lot.

- There was a brief discussion on the pros and cons of selling this parcel of land.
- The consensus was that no further discussion is warranted and the Vestry is not interested in accepting the offer.

B. Second draft of Congregational bylaws

- Becky gave background information on bylaws.
- Until October 2019 a parish was free to use the Diocesan Canons or adopt their own bylaws.
- Good Shepherd used the Diocesan Canons.
- Later it was determined that a parish should have bylaws.
- These bylaws are reviewed by the Diocese.
- Becky has drafted Congregational bylaws (Handout #4) and asked that the members review this document prior to the July meeting and send her any suggestions.

C. July Vestry Voices and Vibes

- Cheryl Sharpe is putting together an article which will address the four subcommittees which are currently meeting.
- She gave information on the congregational survey which is being designed.
- Cheryl will get with Mary Ratliff for an article about new members.
- Becky suggested a couple who has recently joined the parish.

D. Further discussion on the solar project

- Further discussion on the solar project took place through mutual invitation. Overall the members expressed their support and would like to revisit this issue in the future.
- Phil Beauchamp moved to approve the project conceptually and revisit the financing in six months. The motion was seconded by Robyn Harker.
- In the discussion that followed it was determined that six months would be in December, and the motion was amended to “revisit the financing at the January meeting”. Phil agreed to this amendment.
- Approved.

VI. Planning

A. Contingency Planning Task Force—Who should be on it?

- Part of the Rector search will be contingency planning for all the work Becky does that the Vestry is and is not aware. A team will meet with Becky so that she can brief the group on what her concerns will be during her absence.
- Phil asked for volunteers to serve on this task force to which a number of members replied positively.

- Phil will get two or three possible dates for this meeting and will notify the members.

B. Sacred Ground: Episcopal Church Anti-Racism program/Clearwater Deanery

- Recently there are discussions beginning on racism in light of the current situation in the country.
- At a recent meeting the Clericus discussed ways that meaningful discussions can begin.
- The St. Petersburg Deanery is using a resource published by the Episcopal Church which is known as Sacred Ground.
- Other Deaneries are looking at using this resource as well.
- Becky pointed out that Sacred Ground is a good resource for faith based conversations.
- A program such as Sacred Ground takes the pressure off any one Rector in a deanery.
- Becky is hopeful that resources will be available soon.

C. Phone Tree

- A parish member approached Phil Beauchamp with the notion that it is important to maintain membership levels and suggested an increase in telephone calls to congregational members.
- It was further suggested that with Covid-19 and Becky's retirement it is important for members to get an occasional phone call to see how they are doing.
- Becky gave background on the Emergency Management Team's disaster phone tree which is administered by Michelle Schombs.
- The disaster phone tree has been used during a recent hurricane and at Becky's request during the current Covid-19 crisis.
- There was a short discussion on whether to use the disaster phone tree or develop a Vestry phone tree. No consensus was reached.
- Phil will talk more about this at the next Wednesday meeting of the Vestry's Rector Search Committee.

D. Furniture Thrift Store

- Dan Depies reported that the Furniture Thrift Store is looking at installing a new roof on the facility.
- He will send each Vestry member a copy of the "Furniture Thrift Store Roofing Project" for their information.
- If any member would like to see the proposal discussed further they should contact Becky to have it placed on the July agenda.

VII. Closing Devotions

- The Closing Devotion was given by Cheryl Sharpe

VIII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Pat Cates
Clerk