

# The Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin, Florida

## Minutes of the Vestry Meeting September 21, 2020

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

Priest-in-Charge: Michael Durning

Sr. Warden: Phil Beauchamp      Jr. Warden: Dan Depies      Treasurer: Joe Nixon  
Clerk: Pat Cates

Class of 2021	Diane Niford	Cheryl Sharpe	Iris Brookins
Class of 2022	Phil Beauchamp	Robyn Harker	John Russotto
Class of 2023	Dan Depies	London Bates	Judy Warner

Members absent: Deacon Cindy Roehl

### I. **Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order by Canon Michael Durning at 6:34PM

### II. **Opening Devotions**

- The opening devotion was given by Iris Brookins

### III. **Reporting in:**

#### A. **Priest-in-Charge (Michael Durning)**

- Canon Durning shared Pastor Becky Robbins-Penniman's Rector's Report for September. Handout #1
- He also shared his report as Priest-in-Charge Handout #2
- He went over his calendar beginning on September 1.
- Canon Durning talked about the Program Year which included information from the Worship Committee; Deacon's Cindy's preaching schedule for the remainder of the year; the Veteran's service; Kirkin of the Tartan; and plans for the Christmas season.
- He explained that Blue Christmas will be moved to December 6<sup>th</sup> which is close to the Feast Day of St. Nichols.
- He is concerned with the possibility that attendance figures at Christmas events may exceed our recommended attendance of 50 or less. Handout #4
- He shared the Church of England's program "Comfort and Joy" as the theme for Advent 2020 and the new church year. Handout #3. There was no objection from the Vestry to use this program.
- Canon Durning asked about a date for the Annual Meeting and was informed that the date has been set to Sunday, February 14, 2021.

- He asked if there were any questions to his report or to Becky's report and welcomes any feedback.
- The Blessing of the Animals will be held on October 4<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of October 11<sup>th</sup>. Canon Durning will bless the animals and Deacon Cindy will distribute communion.

#### **B. Finances (Joe Nixon)**

- Joe Nixon's reports were sent out as Handout #5A and #5B.
- There was a short discussion relative to finances.
- It was noted that Miriam Benitez-Nixon of the Little Thrift Shop was instrumental in the necklace which was given to the late Justice Ginsberg and was reported by local news stations.

#### **C. Building and Grounds (Dan Depies)**

- Dan Depies reported that the Building and Grounds Committee is working on a number of projects including improvements to the Rectory, the roof on the Furniture Thrift Store and negotiating with the owner of the building used by the Little Thrift Shop. The roof of this building is leaking.
- Dan went over the budget line by line for Rectory repairs as noted in Handout #6.
- The monies for this project will be taken from the Vestry Designated Fund.
- There was a brief discussion on the proposed budget.
- Dan moved, on behalf of Building and Grounds, that the Vestry approve the budget of \$12,615 for repairs to the Rectory.
- As a motion from a committee, no second is required.
- Approved.

#### **D. Search Process (Wardens)**

- Phil Beauchamp reported on a recent conversation with Canon Norman who reported that our search is now "live" and has drawn a number of interested parties.
- Co-chair persons of the Search Committee, Mary Ratliff and Andrea Zahn, will be holding an organization meeting this Wednesday.
- It was noted that a prayer team will pray for each member of the committee while they are meeting.

### **IV. Discussion proposals:**

#### **A. Realm user agreement (Wardens)**

- Canon Durning posed a series of questions on the use of Realm.
- Is Realm working satisfactorily?; Are we ok with using it?
- Should there be a User Agreement?; Who should write it? Etc.

- He wants to ensure that Realm is not being used to say things or discuss issues which have nothing to do with the parish.
- It was noted that currently there is no User Agreement.
- There was a brief discussion in which it was mentioned that Dawn Gordon is an expert in the use of Realm.
- Canon Durning will discuss the use of Realm at Good Shepherd with Dawn and report back at the next meeting.

**B. Budget for Rectory repair and Rectory updates (Wardens)**

- This item was discussed and voted upon in Ill. C.

**C. Virtual and online attendance (Jr. Warden)**

- Handout #4
- Attendance is part of the Annual Reporting process.
- Dan Depies has been putting together attendance figures from information supplied by Dawn Gordon and Carey Cherivtch and reports that it is a fairly simple process to compile the numbers.
- Canon Durning has been going page by page through the Church Register. It is obvious that Covid 19 has impacted attendance.
- The Bishop's recommendation is for the parish take an average attendance and divide by two to arrive at the attendance number and then to put "Covid 19" in the memorandum line.
- Good Shepherd was using this formula through June 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Canon Durning would like to see the attendance figures which Dan is compiling to continue through the end of the year.

**D. Stewardship for 2020-2021 (Diane Niford)**

- Judy Warner will serve as the chairperson for the Stewardship Committee.
- John Russotto and Phil Beauchamp have agreed to serve on this committee.
- Judy gave background of last year's stewardship campaign.
- She added that this year's campaign could be incorporated into "Comfort and Joy".
- Canon Durning indicated that he will be happy to serve on the Stewardship Committee.
- Diane Niford will send Judy a few names of non-Vestry members who might be willing to serve.

**E. 224 Albert Street listing**

- Handout #7
- Dan Depies told Tracy Tippin that he would present her proposal to the Vestry.
- After a brief discussion it was consensus to reject Tracy Tippin's offer.

#### **F. Sacred Ground Anti-Racism training (Cindy Roehl)**

- Due to Cindy Roehl's absence this item will be discussed at a future meeting.

#### **G. If necessary:**

- Vestry Voices and Vibes
  - There was a brief discussion on the Vestry newsletter and a review of the history of this publication.
  - For October, Cheryl Sharpe will write an article on the Rectory.
  - Cheryl will send her completed article to Diane Niford who will add information about the two new members.
  - A different Vestry member will be responsible for writing an article each month. Mary Ratliff will provide information on new members and will forward the results of her interviews to the person writing the monthly article.
  - Some members of the Vestry volunteered to write for a future issue.
  - Iris Brookins will assign members to each of the future issues of Vestry Voices and Vibes. Diane Niford will work with Iris when necessary.
  - The member assigned to write the article will determine the topic.
  - If there is difficulty in selecting an article, it will be brought before the Vestry for discussion at a regular meeting.
  - Dan Depies will add the schedule for assigned writers to the Milestone Calendar.
  - It was suggested that this topic remain on the agenda for future meetings.
- Furniture Thrift Shop
  - Dan Depies gave an update to the roof for the Furniture Thrift Store.
  - The City Inspector would not approve the proposal to repair the roof as presented. A roofing "grade" was needed rather than a "pitch" as proposed.
  - The contractor reported that he would need to raise his price by \$20K to complete the job.
  - After much discussion, the Furniture Thrift Store Board decided to start the entire process over.
  - They will get the specifications from the City before accepting any bids.
  - After a bid is accepted the Board will work through Building and Grounds and the Finance Committee before bringing their proposal to the Vestry.

- Dan also reported that there are roof leaks and plumbing issues at the Little Thrift Shop.
- The Episcopal Church Women rent this space.
- Dan Depies will work with Garry Lumm to negotiate with the building landlords to have them make the necessary repairs.
- No action on either of these two issues is required by the Vestry at this time.

**V. Decisions**

**A. Consent Items**

- August 26, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes
- September 3, 2020 Minutes and September 9, 2020 Minutes
- A motion was made to approve by consent.
- Approved.

**VI. Planning**

**A. Milestone Calendar**

- Canon Durning finds this calendar very helpful
- Dan Depies appreciates members sending him revised dates so he can update the calendar.

**B. Contingency Planning**

- Canon Durning has no plans to bring Becky Robbins-Penniman into contingency planning from this point on.

**C. Closing Devotions**

- The Closing Devotion was given by Iris Brookins.

**VII. FYI:**

- October 17 Diocesan Convention. Will be done online for 300+ people. Pray for us!
- Next Vestry meeting 6:30PM Monday October 19, 2020. (Zoom)

**VIII. Adjourn**

- The meeting was adjourned by Canon Durning at 7:52PM

Respectfully submitted,

C. Pat Cates  
Clerk