

**HOLY FAMILY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES – March 16, 2021**

Attending: Cathy French, Tom Clines, Bob Murray, Marcus Dial, Ruth Everett, Tina Vawter, Betty Bogeman, Jolene Johnston, Fr. Bruce Gray, Dan Chillemi, Lorri Batesky, Katie Hamon

The meeting was called to order at 7:06, via remote connection, with prayer led by Fr. Bruce.

**Checking in with parishioners**

Marcus Dial reminded Vestry members about checking in with their assigned parishioners, especially in preparation for in-person worship on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Bruce noted that we can't always count on people reading the newsletter, so leaving a voice message or an email is good pastoral care.

**Vestry Working Groups for 2021**

Changes to committees:

Fr. Bruce suggested we look over the list of committee members and let him know if there is anyone who needs to make changes. Cathy volunteered to be part of the Worship committee since she is already part of Altar Guild. David Emerson has volunteered to be part of the Evangelism group. Bob shared that Betty Bogeman and Larry Pickens are also part of the Stewardship group. Bob is willing to provide an orientation via Zoom to help them get started, and he encouraged work to begin before fall pledge drive. Dan reported that the Finance and Budget committee is still looking to add another member or two. He shared that there is projected to be a deficit but hopefully regathering will help move things forward. Tom volunteered to be part of the committee. Fr. Bruce hopes that with regathering, more people will get involved and feel invited to join committees.

Building and Grounds:

Bob reported that the Building and Grounds committee's first priority should be getting the church ready for regathering. He plans to wash sanctuary windows and wash screens. If more people can volunteer on Saturday, that would be helpful. Betty said there are several bags of mulch left from last year that can be used. Dan has only heard from four or five people committed to help Saturday with clearing the trail. He thinks we should add language to the newsletter about landscaping and maintenance for the church. Jolene noted that it is too late to go in the newsletter but could go in an email. Dan reported that the city of Fishers is willing to help with some of the work involved in cutting the trail. According to Fr. Bruce, the city has let landowners know that they're willing to help with the cut-throughs, including providing heavy equipment, supplies, gravel, and mulch at cost. Bob asked for clarification about this. Fr. Bruce explained that the city wants to do the work of providing the pathway for the trail so that drainage issues don't occur. Lorri noted that there is an application that needs to be done for the city. She agreed with Bob that our first priority should be getting ready for regathering, the flower sale, and then the trail. Bob asked Dan if it is okay to shift the focus from the trail to the grounds for the Saturday workday, and Dan agreed. He had hoped that the Nickel Plate

Gardens would hire a landscaping crew to do a fancy spring cleanup, but if we have willing volunteers maybe we should shift gears. Marcus offered to fill out the application and work with the Department of Public Works or whoever is in charge. Dan summarized that we would make Saturday a workday to prepare for in person gathering instead of focusing on the trail.

Fr. Bruce stated that Cathy Gray willing to work on the Community Garden. We have raised rates for plots for the entire season to \$15, which includes water. Each renter is responsible for their own tilling, but we will provide a tiller. Marcus inquired about how many have been rented. Fr. Bruce said he believes a majority have been, but there are still some available. Bob asked how it would be promoted to the community at large. Fr. Bruce said we will have a sign on the trail for the community. He believes last year there were perhaps three empty plots. Dan stated that we keep expanding it and then it mostly fills up, which is good news. However, Jolene noted that some people purchase a plot but then abandon it, causing damage to neighboring plots. Some plots might be taken but end up not being used. Lorri plans to look into the vacant plots. She believes it was maybe at 60% capacity last year.

### **Christian Formation**

Ruth shared that we will continue to offer some type of hybrid model of every other week meeting in person but still allowing resources at home. They are still working on figuring that out. Jolene stated that they are trying to be respectful of people who aren't comfortable with in person, but it is a lot of work to offer both. Summer can be a reset to see what next year will look like. We are not able to offer nursery or childcare during regathering and will probably not have crayons or activities for the worship service. Fr. Bruce said that parents are welcome to bring whatever they need to help the kids feel at home during the service.

### **Regathering**

Fr. Bruce reported that a handout and short video are being prepared with frequently asked questions about coming back in person. Bob asked if Bruce could share the FAQ with the Vestry for use when contacting parishioners. Bruce agreed and would like Vestry to be an extra set of eyes for proofreading. Betty inquired about Bethany's pay since there won't be singing. Bruce said her pay will continue as recordings of music will be used. Tina asked about restrooms. They will be available but not drinking fountains. Ruth wondered if Vestry members could help with maintaining restrooms. Bruce said CDC new guidelines indicate that it is not the issue we previously thought it was. Jolene suggested that Vestry members could help picking up stray bulletins, etc. and mentioned that the restrooms by the preschool will get more use. She would like us to separate the church supplies from the preschool supplies and check over the restrooms so they are ready for the preschool on Monday.

### **Almoning**

Betty asked if the Vestry would still do almoning and if anyone is coordinating. Bruce confirmed and Bob reminded that new members would need training. In the past, we paired a veteran vestry member with new member. Betty recommended that it be done in the office with the computer. Betty and Lorri agreed to put together pairs of Vestry members to do the almoning. Fr. Bruce suggested that Betty could train Bob and Lorri together.

### **Discussion of Additional Committees**

Fr. Bruce remarked that Missional Outreach is still in formation and will continue to evolve as we return to in-person worship. Regarding Racial Reconciliation, Bob shared that he has reviewed the resolutions of the diocese and recommended resources. He thought perhaps a brainstorming meeting could occur after Easter to start working on some real initiatives. For the Evangelism committee, Bob noted that a model plan from the Episcopal Seminary in Sewanee, Tennessee could be useful. It features the components of Invitation, Welcome, and Connection and provides videos and checklists that we can use to put together a plan for the rest of the year and future years. Bruce commented that it is a reputable program and could be a great tool for Holy Family.

### **Approval of minutes**

Fr. Bruce asked if there were any additions to be made to the February minutes. None existed, so Bob made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Tom. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Betty explained that we received the PPP loan the first of February, so finances look good for January, February, and March. However, pledges are way down, so hopefully in-person worship will help rectify some missed pledges. She recommended that we continue to monitor the situation.

### **Mulch and Flower Sale**

Betty shared that she met with Jolene, Ruth, and Lorri. Betty would like to give all proceeds to youth group but wants the youth to take some ownership of it. Ruth will get the youth as involved as she can with advertising bulk mulch delivery, loading bags, and working at the flower sale. We had mulch leftover last year, so we don't want to go overboard. Mulch will sell for \$5/bag (\$2.05 profit/bag). The largest profit comes from bulk mulch as the profit margin is doubled compared to bags. Betty has selected the mulch delivery dates to be April 21-22 and May 19-20. Bruce agreed with the dates. Dan asked how they were selected, to which Betty responded that it was based on when we did it last year. Musselman requires it to be a Wednesday or Thursday. Dan wondered about picking a date earlier in April since some people might want to start their yard work earlier. Betty said it is up to Jolene with the timeline for publicizing. Jolene mentioned that earlier could run into spring break, so it was decided to keep the dates as scheduled. Betty shared that last year, only seven people signed up for bulk mulch, so we need to promote it. A key point to share with people is that tax is eliminated by going through the church.

The Flower sale is scheduled for May 1 and will be market style, so people don't have to preorder. Volunteers will be needed. Betty recommended that we should send out emails about volunteering because there is a lot in the newsletter, so some people may miss it there. Cathy asked if there will be a flyer to email coworkers or neighbors about the mulch. Betty reported that Jolene is putting that together.

## **Rector's Report**

Fr. Bruce reported that we did not receive the evangelism grant from Episcopal Church. It was one of the most sought grants he has seen in ten years. They gave six and had dozens of applications. He said they encouraged us to resubmit in the future. Fr. Bruce noted that the Parochial Report which was shared with the Vestry members was created with software that had some bugs. It caused our answers under Racial Reconciliation to be switched, but the errors have been corrected. Bob inquired about Vestry Approval of the report. He suggested that perhaps next year this could be brought to the January meeting so that it could be approved before it is submitted. Fr. Bruce replied that we could do it at the February meeting and explained that this year, they had the report due earlier than usual.

Fr. Bruce reported that for last Saturday's walk, two newcomers attended. They discovered us from our web presence, and Fr. Bruce has been in email contact with them. They were comfortable enough to come to the walk and plan to join worship in person. Two other households have been in contact through welcome cards and emails. Fr. Bruce encouraged Vestry members to keep an eye out for people who may be new on Palm Sunday and to hand out welcome folders. He recognized that the lack of coffee and donuts does provide a challenge for socializing after the service, but he hopes that can happen outdoors. Fr. Bruce asked if there were any other staff reports, and there were none.

Betty inquired about whether last month's meeting minutes contained the motion for asking the diocese to accept half of our normal apportionment for 2021. It was unclear if it was, so Bob made a motion and Cathy seconded. No one was opposed, so the motion passed.

Fr. Bruce asked if there were any other discussion topics, and none were offered. He led us in the Lord's Prayer and a closing blessing. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.