

HOLY FAMILY EPISCOPAL CHURCH VESTRY MEETING MINUTES – August 17, 2021

Attending: Tom Clines, Bob Murray, Marcus Dial, Tina Vawter, Betty Bogeman, Jolene Johnston, Fr. Bruce Gray, Carol Bruns, Zoe Bruns, Dan Chillemi, Lorri Batesky, Stephen Beard, Ruth Everett, Katie Hamon

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m., via remote connection, with prayer led by Fr. Bruce.

Old & New Business

- Vestry feedback from Parishioners: Jolene shared that she has heard suggestions to lower the air temperature in the sanctuary while we are back to wearing masks. Fr. Bruce agreed with that idea.
- Fr. Bruce reported that the preschool is closing due to low enrollment and lack of staff. There was nothing negative behind the decision. Closure will actually benefit Holy Family Children's Ministry by allowing the two rooms to be dedicated to Children's Ministry and will not adversely affect budget. They at best covered their expenses. Utility bills were higher due to usage during the week.
- Fr. Bruce asked Marcus to share about the meeting with the Director of Planning with the City of Fishers regarding Nickel Plate Trail and Holy Family. They are interested in a partnership with Holy Family and a maintenance agreement for use of the parking lot and an ADA accessible trailhead. They want us to get estimates on an overlay for the parking lot and path to the edge of the woods and apply for a grant to cover these costs. The city would cover the ADA accessible features and trailhead maintenance. Bob volunteered to help Marcus with the grant from Creating Places.

Vestry Working Groups Reports for August

Regathering:

Fr. Bruce explained that the Covid Delta variant is a concern, but other locations seem to be experiencing a tapering off after about four weeks. Bob noted that the numbers in Hamilton County are not looking good. Dan asked if we would look at returning to outdoor worship this fall and if the streaming capability is functional outdoors. Fr. Bruce replied that with vaccinations, we are following protocol and for now can continue meeting indoors. We have extended invitations back to the building with Covid guidelines to groups such as AA, Scouts, and Fishers Community Choir. Stephen shared that everyone was masked at the Scout meeting. Fr. Bruce stated that we are continuing to get positive feedback from the YouTube worship services. We are continuing to have newcomers every week, and almost all of them have found us through the YouTube services.

Stewardship:

Tina and Fr. Bruce did not have anything new to report.

Evangelism:

Bob shared that the next meeting is Sept. 15 at 7:00, and there is room for more participants to join. He will send Vestry members the "Invite, Welcome, Connect" evangelism plan for Holy Family, which will begin this fall.

Building & Grounds:

Marcus shared a photo of the Little Library with the addition of a steeple. It will be ready in September to install in the ground. He asked for feedback about where to place it. He proposed along Fishers Pointe Blvd. where lots of walkers and joggers pass by. Jolene agreed since there are two benches there, so it seems to be a good location. Marcus also gave an update about the new playground. We are getting the install fees for about 25% of what they normally would be. We will need 6-8 volunteers to help with installation on Sept. 25. The old playground needs to be removed beforehand. Dan volunteered to help Marcus with taking it apart.

Christian Formation:

Ruth noted that Children's Sunday programming returns September 12. Jolene is trying to get more teachers and volunteers, and they will again need to be flexible depending on what happens with Covid.

Worship:

Fr. Bruce shared that the new carpet has been installed. After some time has passed for settling, the installer will come check it. Lorri reported that the sanctuary light repairs have been completed. A friend of hers helped find refurbished parts which saved us money, along with the fact that Lorri did some of the work herself.

Missional Outreach:

Lorri reported that our relationship with Fishers Elementary School has restarted. Cathy Gray had suggested that the Daughters of the King could reach out to teachers to provide practical support in order to foster a more personal connection. A meeting with Fishers Elementary will be set up soon. Tina asked about background checks. Fr. Bruce seemed to think it may be more working with teachers, but we will have to see. He also mentioned the possibility of having classes come over to use the outdoor space and trail since it is only a two-block walk from the school to the church.

Racial Reconciliation:

Bob shared that the committee met last week to finalize plans for the Holy Family Racial Reconciliation educational plan for 2020-21 program year. This fall, Adult Forum will feature a discussion of Episcopal Saints who have devoted their lives to civil rights. After Epiphany, we will offer a movie series in which people can stream popular movies dealing with justice issues and then meet with fellow parishioners to discuss.

Finance & Budget:

Dan provided an update that we have been seeing better than expected income. Betty agreed that we have not seen the typical summer decline in contributions this year. We know the capital campaign funds will be running out in the next six months. Brendan O'Sullivan Hale from the diocese will be attending the October finance committee meeting and will hopefully have some helpful advice. The diocese will likely encourage another capital campaign.

Dan and Betty reported that the finance committee agrees with the Audit Report. Bob moved that we forgive the \$5200 in past due rents that were not paid by the preschool during the pandemic. Dan seconded it, and the motion passed.

Stephen said that he would reach out to someone from Boy Scouts about the trailers and evidence of casualty insurance as noted in the Audit Report.

Bob asked if Cheryl Burke should still be the 2nd authorized signee. Betty recommended that it shouldn't be a member of the Vestry because of turnover and the difficulty in changing signees. Bob made a motion that Lorri should be the signatory for all current and future accounts, Marcus seconded it, and the motion passed.

Bob inquired about why the personal property tax exemption was not filed for 2020. Fr. Bruce asked Lorri if she would be responsible for that yearly task. She agreed, and shared that she has already spoken to Bob French about the past due filing and will make sure it gets done next year.

Bob would still like to have a Vestry Finance Meeting after the meeting with the diocese in October to discuss the budget shortfall. Dan expressed concern about the fact that the diocese isn't giving us proactive steps to address our shortfall; instead, they wait until we are unable to pay. Fr. Bruce noted that we are an anomaly among congregations to be trying to work this out in advance. Dan reminded us that the only thing we can do right now to affect the outcome is to increase our revenue. Bob made a motion to approve the Audit Review with the discussed changes. Dan seconded, and the motion passed.

Review and Approval of June Minutes

Fr. Bruce asked if there were any corrections, to which there were none. Marcus moved to approve the June minutes, Tom seconded it, and the motion passed.

Rector's Report

Fr. Bruce reminded us of the importance of greeting newcomers and giving them a blue folder, which has an information card. He will be away on vacation on August 29 and September 5. The Rev. Susan Smith will be the supply priest (she attends the 8:00 service and recently retired as rector of Nativity). Bob noted that we still need a third convention delegate if anyone is interested. Participation can be in person in Plainfield or virtual.

Fr. Bruce led us in the Lord's Prayer and Blessing. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Next Vestry meeting will be September 21.

