

HOLY FAMILY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES – June 15, 2021

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m., via remote connection, with prayer led by Fr. Bruce.

Vestry check-ins with Parishioners:

Bob suggested it would be a good time to check in with parishioners ahead of the Sparks Fishers activities.

Computers:

Fr. Bruce reported that two new computers may be needed, with an approximate cost of \$3500 total. The one we have been using for livestreaming melted, and the office computer may need replacing as well. Bob and Betty recommended a PC over a Mac, but Fr. Bruce said this will be dependent on the recommendation of the tech support person. Betty shared that there is \$4,200 available in the technology and rewards funds. Bob made a motion to use money from the technology fund and rewards fund to replace the computers. Dan seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Vestry Working Groups Reports for June:

Finance & Budget:

Dan reported that the Finance committee met yesterday. Betty reported a positive increase in pledge income for May, but we are watching closely the remaining capital campaign money. We will run out of capital campaign money in ten months. Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale from the diocese will be meeting with the Finance committee to discuss the trajectory of what will happen when we run out. The committee recommends that we continue to pay the Chase loan (which is guaranteed by the diocese) through September and see what the diocese recommends. Fr. Bruce shared that the diocese has been very willing to work with congregations in this area. Betty explained that the reason we are waiting until September is to wait until after the summer months since income typically goes down during the summer months.

Dan reported that Spark Fishers is coming along nicely thanks to everyone who has helped with planning. Nickel Plate Gardens has hired and secured the DJ, food truck, paid for some landscaping (Andy and Lauren Wilson from Holy Family paid for landscaping as well). Ruth and Jolene have been very helpful with planning. On June 26, the parade starts at 6:00. The food truck and DJ will be on the church grounds at 6:30, with fireworks around 10 pm. We could use more lawn games/activities, help with checking bathrooms, etc. Jolene stated that we can send people to the website for signing up to volunteer and participate. A Campfire Compline and multi-generational campout on the church grounds will also be offered, with continental breakfast in the morning before the church service at 8:00. People can choose which parts to

attend. Bob noted that this is a great opportunity to invite friends, coworkers, family members. He inquired about the plan for the maintenance of the new landscaping (watering, weeding). Several Vestry members offered to help with this. Dan said that a lot of the matching funds have gone away to keep Nickel Plates Gardens going in the future. Fr. Bruce shared that the foundation we set up is an ongoing tool we can use in a lot of ways to help with this. There are various grants the Nickel Plate can apply for as a secular foundation that the church cannot. Jolene is working on getting signs put out to reach more people.

Fr. Bruce asked if we still need a joint meeting with the Finance Committee. Bob thought it would still be beneficial to have one soon to start looking at 2022 after meetings with the diocese. Dan suggested September or October. The diocese will expect a new capital campaign next year, so we will need to be thinking about that.

Regathering

Fr. Bruce noted that there isn't much to report here, other than the fact that refreshments are now being offered outdoors following the 10:00 service. Bob shared that the community risk level for Fishers is looking very good. He wondered if it may be time to revisit some of our precautions if the risk level is low. Betty asked about the status of the wine. Fr. Bruce responded that the presiding bishop is still saying no wine. Some priests are putting a drop of wine on every wafer, but he doesn't think that is what people desire.

Dan has noticed that the playground could use mulch. He inquired about whether the preschool would have any interest in working with us on that. Bruce said we need to wait and see what happens with preschool in the fall.

Evangelism

Bob reported that we have done three of our brainstorming sessions on the "Invite, Welcome, Connect" model. It was a small group, but those who attended were very helpful, and several were newcomers to Holy Family. The new Evangelism plan for Holy Family will be ready for fall season implementation. The next meeting is June 23; the goal is to narrow down the list of ideas to a manageable plan. Bob wondered if Jolene had an idea of how to be able to distribute this list of ideas prior to the meeting; Jolene will take care of it.

Building & Grounds

Marcus is continuing to check in with his uncle on the building of the Little Library update; at this point it is uncertain when it will be finished.

Marcus suggested that we need to be thinking about replacing the playground. He would like to get that going if there are still funds; Fr. Bruce confirmed that there are. Marcus has filled out an application to make a connection to the Nickel Plate Trail. Fishers will pay for the trailheads for the residential connections, so we are responsible for the trailhead. We need to get permission from Duke and Department of Public Works before moving forward. He suggested we begin thinking about what we envision: do we want a gravel ramp or stairs? Once we have an idea, we need to get some estimates.

Betty asked if anyone is looking at repairs for the parking lot. Fr. Bruce said the city may be willing to help if we allow the parking lot to be public access to the trail. Marcus thinks it's worth discussing with Fishers since it is something that will need to be addressed soon.

Cathy Gray reported that all Community Garden plots have been rented. She is working on forming a community among the gardeners and connections with Holy Family.

Christian Formation

Jolene & Ruth are taking June off and will start planning in July. Bob shared that Matthew Johnston will be confirmed and Jon Manuzak will be received on Sunday, so keep them in your prayers. Jolene said we can find a Sunday to recognize them at church.

Worship

Fr. Bruce gave an update about the carpet in the sanctuary; it is to be installed in the coming weeks and will be paid for with designated donations. The lights in the sanctuary are awaiting parts. Four new acolytes have been trained for the 10:00 service.

Missional Outreach

Lorri met with Cathy Gray and Cathy Scott to discuss ideas for the year. We will continue some of the projects that Cathy Scott had organized for Holy Family before adding additional outreach opportunities.

Racial Reconciliation

Bob provided an update about the Holy Family Racial Reconciliation educational plan for 2020-21. The committee's work is in the final stage of development. The Sacred Ground program is a lot of reading and video, but it is highly beneficial if you can commit the time. The Adult Forum will feature Episcopal saints who worked for racial justice. We will also have monthly movie discussions about popular films about the topic of racial justice. People can stream them on their own and then meet on Zoom or in person to discuss the movies.

Review and Approval of May Minutes

Tina motioned to approve the minutes, Marcus seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Rector's Report

Fr. Bruce informed us that Holy Family is part of first diocesan cohort of congregations for "Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships," which is a diocesan program that will make us eligible for grants from the diocese. The Working group includes Fr. Bruce, Sandra Cline, Mel Bohlander, Lee Cahalan, Susie Beard, Cathy Gray, and Lorri Batesky. The bishop specifically asked Holy Family to participate, and it is a pilot program for the whole Episcopal Church.

Jolene reminded of the importance of using social media to promote events at Holy Family.

The next Vestry meeting will be August 17 in person, so Fr. Bruce encouraged all to be vaccinated before then.

Fr. Bruce led us in the Lord's Prayer and blessing, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.