

HOLY FAMILY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES – January 18, 2023

Attending: Fr. Bruce Gray, Bob Murray, Betty Bogeman, Jon Manuszak, Peter Mulhall, Stephen Beard, Katie Hamon, Carol Bruns, Tina Vawter, Dan Chillemi, Tom Clines, Gary Snyder

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. with prayer led by Father Bruce.

Celebrating Little Wins

- Gospel at Hogwarts: 43 children attended with more than half being non-parishioners. Fr. Bruce was able to make connections with many of them. Jolene and her team did an excellent job.
- Christmas attendance increased from the past few years.

Old & New Business

- Vestry Nominating Committee update: We have two candidates: Kristine Canter and Jessica Largent. We still need two more candidates by Sunday. We have our three candidates for the Diocesan Convention in November: Larry Pickens, Marcus Dial, and Kay Mullhall.
- Annual Meeting: Fr. Bruce encouraged Vestry members to be at the annual meeting on January 29. We discussed the best way to highlight the number of new members. Bob suggested including other statistics besides financials in the weekly bulleting (such as new members, baptisms, Sunday School attendance, etc.)
- 2023 Budget formation:
 - Betty reported that expenses in the budget are based on 2022 end of year expenses and inflation. We have allocated 100% of pledges and alms and have come within \$3,000 of a balanced budget. We have taken some of the normal budget expenses and deferred them to depleting funds rather than budgetary needs which is an unrealistic approach since we won't be able to do that again. There is a \$25,000 shortfall which was close to the committee's projection. We are down to \$24,000 in the general fund, which will be exhausted by June if things continue the way they have been.
 - Tom shared that the committee moved some funds around to put more in the general fund. We are still waiting on information from the Diocese about the investment account.

- Dan emphasized that we are building a budget based on 100% of pledges and alms, which will very likely not occur. We are cutting apportionment in half which we did last year as well and are still \$3,000 short. We have a two-year debt in apportionment that is close to \$30,000 that we are expected to pay back at some point. We also don't have a guarantee that the Diocese will continue the debt holiday. Dan recommended making a small cut in staff salaries in order to run a balanced budget.
- Bob would like to see more strategic planning meetings for the Vestry to learn specifics about staff performance in order to be able to make decisions about staffing cuts with regards to the budget.
- Bob motioned that we allocate \$13,466 from the railroad settlement revenue (\$90,000) to pay back our apportionment debt and use \$3,050 from the building maintenance fund and \$350 from cleaning services for general building expenses. Stephen seconded. The motion was approved.
- Dan is concerned that we will not be able to continue doing this as it does not address the problems with our income/expenses. He believes we need to focus primarily on evangelism because as our numbers increase, our income will as well.
- Carol noted that it is important that we not lose sight of the fact that our desire to grow should be focused on bringing people closer to God and into our church community as opposed to only looking at growth from a financial viewpoint.
- Fr. Bruce suggested that we make evangelism and strategic planning our focus for 2023.
- Jon gave a reminder about the upcoming Trivia Night. It is a great opportunity to invite friends and to bond with fellow parishioners. Hopefully this will be an annual event. There are still tables available.
- The meeting concluded with Compline and was dismissed at 8:44 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting: Wednesday, February 15th at 7:00 PM