



# Holy Family Episcopal Church

## Vestry Meeting Minutes April 19, 2023

Attending: Fr. Bruce Gray, Senior Warden Tom Clines, Junior Warden Bethany Paden, Kristine Canter, Chris Beldin, John Manuszak, Gary Synder, Jessica Largent, Katie Hamon, Sharon Naatz

The meeting was called to order approximately at 7:15 p. m. with prayer led by Father Bruce.

### Celebrating Little Wins

- Bethany's Vestry Report at Sunday Services was very well received with several good comments made to Fr. Bruce. It contained the right amount of detail, and it was noted that the congregation was intently engaged in the information. Everyone agreed that Bethany should continue to give updates throughout the year.
- Holy Week and Easter Services were well attended with numbers meeting that of pre-covid days. Also 50 people were counted watching services on-line. Although, this number can be skewed due to people signing out and back and families watching with one sign on could technically make the number lower than actual people viewing.
- Tom Clines, who is a retired fireman (thank you for your service, Tom!) reached out to the local Fishers Fire Department to make a connection there for Holy Family. His point of contact is the PIO (Public Information Officer) John Melman. Tom was directed to a website to fill out to request for a visit or time shared with the firemen at this location. This outreach is still in the works as a continuing effort is made by Tom. More to come.
- 2 new families were welcomed by the church that visited during April 16<sup>th</sup> services. Both had younger members interested in youth group activities and Sunday School orientation. Fr. Bruce sent welcome letters to both families, and they were entered into the database for other volunteers to offer additional welcome engagements. Fr. Bruce is looking for a good software app that can help volunteers organize and keep in touch with new visitors on a timely basis.

### Old & New Business

- Grant approved for Middle School Arts Program. In May there will be an organizational meeting for the after-school program. Holy Family Liaison, Fr. Bruce, will be asking for donations for snacks and volunteers to assist the professional art teacher who will be spearheading the effort for middle schoolers.
- In June there will be a theater camp that will use the Holy Family Church Building to work on plays and has offered invitations for parishioners to attend the closing performance. The incoming sum of \$1,000.00 will be provided to Holy Family as payment for use of the space.
- An odd smell from the bathrooms has been tracked down to dried-out traps. These are currently in the process of being treated.
- Pentecost falls on Indy 500 Day – It is also Memorial Weekend with potential lower attendance at church that weekend. Typically, an outdoor service and potluck is done for Pentecost, but an option was given to have the picnic/potluck the last weekend in June in connection with Spark Fishers that would potentially have a higher attendance and greater celebration with the parade and fireworks. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will provide the meat and the congregation can bring items to round out the meal.

- The actual Pentecost weekend will still have outdoor chapel service with Pentecost themed hospitality possibly.
- Additional readers, chalice bearers, ushers and acolytes are being recruited by Fr. Bruce. There is an upcoming Brotherhood of St. Andrew meeting that would be a good opportunity for Fr. Bruce to champion an effort for volunteers.
- Hamilton Southeastern Equal (HSEqual) is holding a Rainbow Tea on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Along with the inclusion of the LGQBT students this group also supports physically and learning-disabled students who live on the outskirts of society's population and deserve an equal chance at being celebrated and included at school. Holy Family will proudly host and ask for any volunteers that will assist in any way HSEqual needs.
- Request via diocesan convention to affirm the Covenant to Root out Racism. Fr. Bruce gave more information and explained that the vestry could vote on this tonight or wait a month and vote on it in May. After spirited discussion concerning the level of commitment the diocese wanted from Holy Family (At least 3 of the covenants that were general and open to various degrees of interpretation). Holy Family has reached out and is still awaiting an answer from the 18-24 people on the Executive Committee as to how much commitment to the Covenant is expected and a straightforward action plan. It was felt by many of the members of the vestry that Holy Family supports the ideals of the Covenant and examples were given such as involving the parish in Movies with a Social Consciousness, Anti-racism classes and multiple Adult Forums engaging in Social Issues. After much conversation on the racism, reverse racism, and the breakdown of society in multiple splintered segments, Gary Synder made the motion to affirm the Covenant. Bethany Paden seconded with the amendment that there needs to be more clarity given by the Executive Committee as to what is a viable action plan. The motion passes.
- Fishers Elementary School 3<sup>rd</sup> graders received \$100 in fresh school supplies. Also, every teacher and staff support person received a potted succulent in an owl pot. Plus, a hand signed card. This was last month's initiative for growth, and it has succeeded tremendously. Fr. Bruce received 6 thank you notes for our continued support of this endeavor.
- Proposed Display Case for Scouts and a rendering from Stephen Beard. The Case will have ½ of the room to display Scout's achievements and the other ½ will be for Holy Family. Fr. Bruce requested that there be safety glass so no one would get hurt. Concern was voiced about the sharp edges of the corners that could hurt small children running through the hallways. The Scouts will provide the funds for the Case. Volunteers are asked to look up Cabinet stores or web sites to research if this could be made available and cost effective. There was mention of a non-profit that supports former felons as wood workers that Jessica Largent will look into.
- Land Sale Project - From Brendan O'Sullivan Hale today – "we have mutually agreed upon language, but it needs to be approved by the Standing Committee. The agreement is complex enough that they want our counsel to walk them through it at their May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. I understand Todd Relue to have been in touch with the developer's counsel on the timeline." From the discussion that followed this statement it appears that the sale of land is dependent on approval from the Diocese, as they own the land and currently on the Standing Committee are members that do not have real estate experience so are not in a terrible hurry to decide anytime soon on this sale. We also have to deal with the City and their expectations once the developers and Diocese come to an agreement. There is a small possibility that the land could be taken from Holy Family by the City via Eminent Domain if we don't end up selling (the City has not

threatened this though). Concerns were raised as to whether the parking area would change drastically and if the garden plots would decrease in size. Bethany stated that realistically both sides were not going to get all they wanted. It was mentioned that the Outdoor Chapel was a great addition by the Scouts (Girl Scout Gold Award project of El Everett (benches and altar) and Boy Scout Eagle Scout project of Thomas Canter (cross, pathway, landscaping), Boy Scout Eagle Scout project of Aaron Lackner (additional trees and fire pit by the shelter)) but now needed much repair. History from Holy Family was shared that twice there were plant struggles and pledges didn't cover mortgages and attendance was very low after 18-24 months. And a plant was started in Brownsburg, while 2 were in Indianapolis at the same time. Chris Beldin would like to see more assistance from the Diocese. Even if we were given additional money by the Diocese, we still need to be self-sufficient to show that we can survive once the money has been used.

- Wade Nichols is an attorney who is a parishioner, and he has reviewed all agreements as well.
- Bethany Paden encouraged members in sharing that the money from the U. S. government is in and can be approved to be disbursed but the attorney (Craig Doyle, Doyle & Foutty PC) is out of town until next week. This money is compensation for the Nickel Plate Trail that was given to the city of Fishers for \$93,000.00.
- Homework for this month was to address one of the five proposed initiatives in the HFEC Strategic Plan, The second initiative "Involvement/Volunteerism". Kristine Canter and Jessica Largent, who are leading the Stewardship Committee will be researching efforts like ministry fairs and ministry questionnaires. A question was asked that the Director of Communications should also be involved in recruiting volunteers, but that position focuses outward from the parish and covers more marketing for Holy Family toward the community. Volunteers are a foundation providing "Time, Talent and Treasure." It was mentioned that keeping a record of the amount of time each person volunteers would be beneficial but extremely time consuming and hard to pinpoint actual acts of volunteering when some people prefer not to mention what they do. It was thought that a Volunteer Recognition Sunday would be a nice treat for volunteers.
- A new chair for the Evangelism Committee is Gary Synder taking over from Bob Murray.
- Tom Clines spoke of Holy Family current limitations in volunteer services as with a 100-family parish we cannot support a 200-family volunteer expectation. Other vestry members agreed.
- For the next Vestry Report given by Bethany Paden she was asked to mention that volunteers were needed for the Flower Sale coming up on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Betty Bogeman was not present to give the Treasurer's Report. Fr. Bruce reported on her behalf that financials were looking good, but people still needed to keep up with their pledges. Quarterly reports are coming soon and to please watch your emails. It was stated that Catholics make a great deal of money by doing 50/50's. But it was discovered that our Bishop does not endorse gambling.
- The next Adult Forum series will cover Christian Nationalism.
- Jolene Johnston wanted to respond to Lorri Batesky's previous question about texting programs that would text parishioners who wanted to be included alerts and special events. Mail Chimp does have that feature, but we would have to enter the database information. Fr. Bruce and the Vestry agreed an app similar to Mail Chimp for a small monthly cost of \$50.00 or less per month would be acceptable for a text program. This would be a great question to ask on a church survey if people would be interested in a text from church.

- The meeting concluded with Compline and was dismissed at 8:55 p. m.

**Next Vestry meeting is Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**