

HOLY FAMILY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES – February 15, 2023

Attending: Fr. Bruce Gray, Betty Bogeman, Jon Manuszak, Katie Hamon, Tina Vawter, Tom Clines, Gary Snyder, Kristine Canter, Chris Beldin, Bethany Paden, Jessica Largent, Ruth Everett, Jolene Johnston

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. with prayer led by Father Bruce.

Celebrating Little Wins

- We had 99 people at church this past Sunday, which is the first time we have hit that number since before Covid.
- New vestry members
- Ruth and Esther Bible Study went well.
- Offertory Anthems have been very inspiring.

Old & New Business

- Vestry election of Bethany Paden for three-year-term and Chris Beldin for a two-year term: Tom motioned; Jon seconded. The motion was passed. Bethany volunteered to give up her salary as music director now that she is a Vestry member.
- The Annual Meeting part II is planned for February 26 at 11:15 a.m.
- Tom Clines has been appointed by Bruce as the 2023 Senior Warden.
- Vestry elections: Betty is willing to continue as Treasurer. Katie will continue as Clerk. Tina made a motion that Betty serve as Treasurer and Katie as Clerk; Kristine seconded. The motion passed. Jon made a motion that Bethany serve as Junior Warden; Kristine seconded. The motion passed.
- Exploration of land sale by Holy Family: Last year the Vestry began exploring the possibility of selling a portion of the church land that runs along the Nickel Plate Trail to a development company that is interested in a residential building with first floor retail space. The Diocese has shown support but would need to officially approve once there is a purchase agreement. The developer (Travis Tucker) and Fr. Bruce discussed the need to have another town hall meeting as well as to meet with the Vestry every month to keep everyone informed and provide opportunities for asking questions. Travis is currently working with the Fishers City Hall on the development plans. The new Vestry members would like to see a drawing of the proposed plans. Fr. Bruce and Bethany will get it scanned and shared with Vestry members. Chris asked why we aren't praying

about this every Sunday, and other Vestry members agreed with her suggestion. Fr. Bruce acknowledged that this can be done. Jessica asked if we are working with a realtor who will represent us. Fr. Bruce stated that we are working with the Diocesan attorneys.

- Nickel Plate Trail compensation from US Government in 2023: This is compensation from the federal government as part of the Rails to Trails program. We should receive approximately \$96,000 in the next few months.
- 2022 conflict and mediation with Canon Ellen Ekevag: Tom explained that he would like for all new members to be informed about the situation which began last year. He gave an overview of the conflict between some of the members who had concerns about Fr. Bruce's leadership and the church finances. Canon Ellen Ekevag assisted in forming a mediation plan, which Fr. Bruce implemented, involving meeting with over 25 families. There is still a group of parishioners who are voicing concerns. Some from the group wanted the Vestry to reduce staff salaries or hours, which didn't happen. They also have expressed their desire for new leadership. They have asked for the Vestry and Fr. Bruce to meet with the Bishop's office. Tom hopes that we can work to find a way to resolve this since the staff do such vital work for the parish. Betty expressed that their main concerns are financial and leadership. The concerned parishioners were invited to run for Vestry but declined. Fr. Bruce shared that last year he kept the issues contained to the concerned families so as not to alienate newcomers. However, at the Annual Meeting it will be discussed openly as Fr. Bruce plans to give a summary of the mediation process, and Vestry members are encouraged to speak up.

Review and Approval of December and January meeting minutes

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes; Tina seconded. The minutes were approved.

Finance & Budget

- Treasurer's Report: Betty provides monthly reports of net worth, condensed version of operating income and expenses, and a summary of where we are with loans. She is always happy to answer questions about the finances. January was not a good month financially, and we are in a serious situation when it comes to paying expenses in the months ahead. The issue needs to be placed more prominently in the bulletin and discussed more directly. Vestry members agreed.

Rector's Report

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is February 21 from 5-7 PM
- Ash Wednesday is February 22; services at noon and 7:00 PM
- Walking Through Lent Saturday strolls begin February 25 at 10:00 AM

- Trivia Night Fundraiser is February 25 at 5:45 pm
- Ashes to Alleluia Lenten programs will be on Wednesday evenings during Lent
- Weekday discussion and activity adult group is being started by Bruce
- Easter Season Adult Forum will focus on Christian Nationalism
- Lots of newcomers at 10:00-share a smile with them and with long time members you do not know well

The meeting concluded with prayer and was dismissed at 9:11 p.m.

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