



# Holy Family Episcopal Church

## Vestry Meeting Minutes September 20, 2023

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

The meeting was called to order approximately at 7:20 p. m. with prayer led by Father Bruce.

### Celebrating Little Wins

- The Ministry Fair went well. Even though one form was filled out, there were opportunities to see what the church is involved in and what Holy Family supports. Thank you to all who made this important PSA happen!
- The Bulletin design has been updated. Conversation centered on what should be the most practical way the rough draft is passed through the various checkpoints to get approved for Sunday morning service. Much appreciation for all who are involved.
- A somewhat new visitor was discussed, mother with triplets, seems very involved with activities including the SATS gift bag making. Thank you, Holy Family for being so warm and welcoming to our visitors!
- A new set of acolytes, 4 children, are currently in training with Fr. Bruce. A big thank you to all the new volunteers giving yourselves to this important service!
- The success of the Bible Study and Adult Forum choices this year with the Canters teaching out of the Book of Matthew and the Grays going over FAQs of the Episcopal Church. Kudos to all!

### Parish Gossip Chain

- In the vein of “Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?” Holy Family has its very own mystery in our missing host container that is used for serving communion to our home bound parishioners. If you have any knowledge of where this is, please let the parish staff or a vestry member know!

### Old & New Business

- An Eagle Scout project is underway renovating the West Entrance that will include landscaping and professional contractor who will resurface with granite and install a picnic table and copper benches to encourage social interaction among the community and parish. Thank you, Wesley, for your support in this endeavor!
- Another Eagle Scout project in the works is a glass encased cabinet in the hallway of the entrance to the parish hall. The Vestry approved of this project continuing as a great way to build awareness in the activities of the Eagle Scouts. Thank you, Stephen Beard, for spearheading this undertaking!
- Bethany Paden is still going through the data received from the Survey. She plans to have an update soon to let us know how Holy Family can incorporate viable entries into our community. Thank you, Bethany!
- The Town Hall meeting was a great success. Many people attended in person and now the meeting is on You Tube if you missed it. Gardeners had questions about better access to water.

Everyone is encouraged to reach out to Fr. Bruce or any vestry members if questions are still not answered to satisfaction. Thank you, Chris Beldin, for keeping the gardeners involved in this ongoing process.

- The Strategic Plan for Holy Family will be updated by Annual Meeting 2024.

#### Focus Goals from Vestry Retreat - Reports

- Bethany Paden will be developing policies and job descriptions for comprehensive and meaningful roles that people will be able to adhere to without tripping over details that aren't mentioned in the current explanations, still in production.
- Bethany will also finish our concerns forms and develop a parish process for handling concerns, still in process.
- Fr. Bruce is concentrating on Evangelism and going to coffee shops to interact with the community in a direct person to person way.
- The Finance and Budget committee – Senior Warden, Tom Clines, reported that our 3% interest is going to be stable for the following fiscal year, which is a great relief as interest rates are rising. Per Dan, the proposed plan is to have Holy Family invest money and we will still owe the money to the diocese. Our auditor, David Emerson, will complete the plan.
- Stewardship - Kristine Canter and Jessica Largent. Fr. Bruce will be conducting a stewardship drive with pledge cards for 2024 budget support. Timeline as follows: Publicity in October, Pledges requested in November, follow up in December and January.
- Buildings and Grounds – A cherry picker is needed to reattach the wires in the sanctuary. Currently almost touching pianist/organist head.

#### Finance and Budget

- Treasurer's Report – Ben Paden, currently travelling, will give an update next month but Fr. Bruce is already aware that the Audit Review for 2022 will be done by David Emerson and the Treasurer.
- Chris Beldin made the motion to approve the September minutes, Kristine Canter seconded the motion, and all voted "AYE" and motion was passed unanimously.

#### Rector's Report

- After School Art Program – in partnership with St. Michael's, Noblesville, and St. Francis in Zionsville, is in the planning stages now. It will start sometime during the school year. Holy Family will host once a week for 6 weeks with a professional art teacher that will be no cost to us. It will be through a Diocesan grant. Update: best day is Saturdays, but teacher might not approve that if not willing to work on Saturdays with the children.
- Currently, no nursery, Rockers in the sanctuary were discussed. Pros are more of a family feel if parents can rock children while sitting on rockers. Cons deal with the fact that young children who are not being watched will get on rockers and injure themselves or others. Still ongoing debate. An option is to have a play area/gather at front of church to watch all the children together up-front to feel included in the celebration on Sundays.

- Protocols should be created to have in case a long-term member is no longer able to provide the same volunteer role and his/her knowledge is no longer available for the rest of the parish to carry on.
- Trunk or Treat for children to get candy in a safe place without being out in the street. Booths are still available if you want to participate by providing treats.
- Options for fun things that the parish can participate in together is the Parish Birthday Party, where 12 tables are Months, and you sit at the table that has your month's birthday. A great way to get out of our comfort zone is by talking to only people we know well.
- Christmas Carol night where we all get together to sing Christmas songs and have cookies and hot chocolate. It was mentioned that a good night to have this would be Spaghetti Night when we also decorate the church for the Christmas season.
- Other ideas are a Chili Cookoff, Jazz night. Looking for unique ways to have the community see that we are a fun, happening place in the neighborhood. Another idea is to have pickleball court seasons, like bowling or volleyball, where teams can get together weekly for a season.
- October Vestry meeting will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October due to fall break.
- Evangelism and Parish – Please say hi to people you have missed over the summer. All Vestry members take turns at being welcome to the parish. Vestry person of the week whom the people can come to.

The meeting ended with compline led by Fr. Bruce at 8:41 p. m.

**Next Vestry meeting is Wednesday October 25th, 7:00 p.m.**