

May 2024 Vestry Meeting

Those in attendance: Mary Amos, Anne Binns, Joyce Bott via call in, Natalie Castro, Tim Cavins, Jacqueline Howells, Carlyle Knox, Niki Manke, Bob Murphy, Diana Smith

Those not in attendance: Tom Cooke, Jason Evans

Clergy: Greg Brown, Cat Connolly

Guest attendees: Jessica Dunlap – Staff, Holly Williams - Staff

1) Opening Prayer – Bob M.

2) Agenda Approval – Carlyle K.

3) Scripture/Bible Study – Mary A.

4) Finance Report – Holly W.

Apr2024 Financial Statements

- Holly discussed the Revenue and Expense report – see attached.
- \$4k short on income
- Water bill received due to the leak, has been adjusted by \$1k from the city. The money will be used to pay the water bills going forward for a few months.
- Vestry voted to give the Oyster Roast and childcare funds, but she was not given direction.
 - Carlyle said the money was to come from the Vestry Holding accounts – Birthday/Anniversary. Carlyle moved, Niki seconded, approved by all.
- We are included in the Nancy Murray estate, unsure of amount.
- Greg spoke about past bequest gifts that we received and how he thought they might help the church from year to year.

5) Associate Rector's Report – Cat C.

a) General updates

- Cat updated that she interviewed a candidate for the Youth Ministry position. Pending background checks, we anticipate offering him the position. There will be a slight overlap period with the new person and Samantha.
- Cat was at a conference in NY. Keynote was given by Bishop Michael Curry.
- Sacred Ground course with the Diocese being held at Gallilee Ministries.
- Cat began offering the Spanish language service.
 - Natalie said she did a great job.
- Cat is trying to put together youth confirmation classes. Some of the classes will be done in the summer and should be confirmed in the Fall.
- Cat is hoping to be on vacation in June, but her visa is pending an extension, as she plans to go to England.

b) Building Rental Consideration

- There are things that the vestry needs to decide.
- A few years ago, a prior vestry prohibited rentals to for-profit organizations.
 - Anne asked why we would not rent to for profit groups. Holly said that if we rent to for profit, it can be a tax issue because we would be collecting income.
 - Carlyle asked if we could change the wording in the rental documents? Holly said we could but there are still some liability questions with rentals to for profit.
 - Bob asked what the difference in taxation is with for profit and no-profit rentals.
- Diana said she likes the idea of sharing our space with groups that have similar values as ours. But she said that we need to be careful about how we deem the “values”.
- Carlyle said he feels we need a lawyer and a CPA for further review of the rental, and they should come back with recommendations as to how we should proceed. There are a lot of considerations to make, and Cat and the committee should review.
- Joyce suggested that we need to discuss with our insurance company with some urgency.
 - Carlyle asked if Holly could spearhead the insurance.
 - Holly suggested she will speak with Gray about the insurance piece.
- Playground does need consideration regarding rentals due to liability issues.
 - Joyce asked what if a child from our parish gets hurt on a Sunday, who is liable? Holly said it would be on HOCO. Holly also said that the difference is that someone not from HOCO may not be as understanding.
 - Anne asked if we could put in the agreement that we are not liable. Holly said we cannot do that.
 - Diana asked if we usually locked the playground? Jessica said no.
 - Do we have a history of damage or injury? Jessica and Holly said there has been damage. Tim said there was an injury of a La Escuelita child breaking their arm.
 - Jessica said that the school paid for maintenance and the church pays for mulch.
 - Holly mentioned that she is more concerned with unsupervised children in the playground during rental events.
 - Bob said he is concerned with the catastrophic events that may occur.
 - Are other churches prohibiting the use of their playground?
- The insurance implication is that the insurance may go up with rentals, but it is not known how much. Holly said she can ask Jim Hughes for his opinion.
- Jacqueline asked if we want to go forward with rental?
- Tim said, in his opinion, that he feels we should move forward with consideration of the rental. He suggested that we need insurance professionals to weigh in.
- Greg asked Cat if she has spoken to other churches about the rentals and risks. She is looking into it.
- Bob asked if the Diocese has any guidance on rentals. Holly mentioned that the church said do not let anyone use your building.
- Carlyle offered guidance to Cat to speak with other churches and see what information she can obtain.
- Cat will come back to the next vestry meeting with recommendations.

- Joyce said perhaps we can invite our insurance person to the next vestry meeting to answer questions, as well as Gray regarding the contracts/lease.

6) Junior Warden's Report– Carlyle K.

a) Solar Panel Update

- Report in Vestry shared folder.
- Two current bids.
- The vestry will be voting to ask the Foundation for funds - \$10k this year and next year.
- The Creation Care grant was submitted May 1
- There was an anonymous donation (\$3k)
- CORRECTION TO PROJECTION SLIDE: HOCO PV System projected Production: \$63,762
- Carlyle stated he had concern with any appearance of the bid placed with Renu as he works for them, but he assured everyone that he will not be making any money nor will he receive any type of incentive from Renu, should HOCO proceed with them for the solar project.
 - The general feeling from the vestry is that there was no conflict of interest.
- Carlyle moved to go forward with asking the Foundation for the money to move with the proposal. Diana seconded. Approved by all.
- Bob asked what would happen with the \$10k for projected costs if the system is not done. Holly said the money can be earmarked back to the Foundation.
- NC Diocese Green Grant Submitted

b) VPOD Schedule – is updated and he will get it reloaded to the drive and email it to the vestry. Jessica asked to let her know when a schedule is swapped.

c) Crosswalk – Russell and Mary Lindsay are communicating with the project manager for possible dates for a meeting – possibly May 29th

7) Ministry Reports

a) Spiritual Formation – Anne B.

- Anne uploaded a report in the shared drive.
- Anne complimented the lay leaders for filling gaps with staff vacancies.
- Children's Ministry
 - Vacation Bible school starting June.
 - June 2nd Kim will transition to a Godly Play program for kids.
 - Children's chapel is going well.
- Youth Ministry
 - We have about 65 on the roster. Beth H. said we have about 40 who attended EYC throughout the year.
 - 11 Youth going on the Pilgrimage to Costa Rica in June.
- Adult Spiritual Journeys

- Chris Bates is taking over leadership of ASJ.
- Bible Study is continuing.
- Bible As It Is will be taking a break.

b) Women's Ministries – Mary A.

- Mary uploaded a report.
- Darrow Owens had a successful year. The Summer Reading Party was the most well attended program. She is working on speakers for next year.
- Great women's retreat with good attendance in the Spring.
- Mary said she would like to restart the Women's Wine Nights

8) Mid Meeting Reflection & Bio Break – Anne B. – Anne read from A Rhythm of Prayer.

9) Rector's Report – Greg B.

a) Annual Giving Campaign Leaders

- Greg has an "ask" out but he has not gotten an answer.

c) Reconnection success stories:

- Diana spoke of a man she met called Neil. She took down his information as he wants to transfer his membership.
- Holly mentioned a renter may be joining the choir in the fall.
- Tim mentioned a new young couple that have been coming and they are enjoying the church.
- Gray ran into an acquaintance, whose wife is Colombian, and they have been coming to La Misa.
- Natalie said Adrienne may be joining the choir this fall.

b) Vocational Deacon

c) Transitional Deacon

- Greg spoke of the need for an indigenous Spanish speaking priest to grow La Misa. Greg asked for a motion to ask the foundation for \$8k (two donations of \$4k) to the Diocesan "New Curate Program."
- Holly asked how much money is the Foundation Mission and Ministries bucket? Joyce said \$35k.
- Carlyle moved to approve a request to fund \$8k through the Foundation to make a donation to the Diocesan New Curate Program. Voted and approved by all.

d) Sabbatical: May-July 2025

- Greg is planning a sabbatical from May through July 2025. In his original Letter of Agreement, he was granted an additional 2 weeks of vacation in 2021 but he did not use them until his pilgrimage in 2023. He will give more information as the time nears.

e) Other updates

- Greg will be at Neuvo Amanecer
- It is possible that Greg and Cat will be out of the country at the same time, June 25-26. Greg has arranged Fr. Jim Bernacki to be on hand for pastoral emergencies.
- Confirmation classed for adults will be kicking off June 2nd.
- Diana asked if La Misa lunches will continue the first Sunday of the month, which Greg confirmed.

10) Senior Warden's Report – Joyce B. /Carlyle K.

a) Still in need of a candidate for Recording Secretary

- We are still looking for a candidate. Several people have been asked but declined.
- Mary A. said that the secretary does not need to be a woman.

b) NC Convention Dates: Nov 22nd & 23rd in Winston-Salem

- 2024 NC Convention Alternates
 - Reid Parker has accepted to be an alternate and Kelly Sewell is considering.
 - There are up to 4 spots for alternate delegates that do not need to attend the convention.
- 2024 NC Conventions Delegates: Kathy Trotter, Mary Monahan, Sissy Poland, Gail Fennimore

11) Old Business/Reminders – Carlyle K.

Diana asked about inactive members – 86 people. Joyce said it will be added to the June vestry meeting agenda. Holly said some of the people have returned, so the list will need to be gone over.

a) Approval of Apr 2024 Minutes. Tim moved to approve the April minutes. Carlyle seconded. All approved.

b) June Ministry Reports – Parish Events (weekly/monthly/small group) – Jason E.; Pastoral Care (Natalie C.)

c) BGG Speakers – June (Joyce B./Brad Patterson), July (Tim C.), Aug (Anne B.)

d) June Vestry Assignments: Dinner (Jason E.), Open/Close Prayers (Carlyle K.), Lead Scripture study (Bob M), mid meeting reflection (Mary A.)

12) Closing Prayer – Bob M.