

Vestry Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2020
Via Zoom

Vestry Members Present: Kim Kitterman, James Aldinger, Bailey Fountain, Will Hayley, Kathryn Jasper, Nancy Manire, John Owen, Ginny Strubing, Edwin Thorp, Laura Trott, John Webb, Anna Kathryn Word

Vestry Members Absent: Lisa Buckner, Madge Deacon, Heidi Rupke

Clergy Present: Scott Walters, Amber Carswell, and Paul McLain

Others Present: Mike Hammond, Brett Norman, Julie Bethell, Steve Smith, Tony Graves

Call to Order: Scott Walters called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Prayer: John Webb led us in prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

June Vestry Meeting minutes were approved, with Kim Kitterman making the motion and Nancy Manire seconding.

Financial Report: Steve Smith/Tony Graves

June Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expenses Report Summary are posted on Basecamp.

Tony reported that pledge payments were \$1,000.00 off for June but \$5,000.00 ahead for the year, using our new way of budgeting based on historical monthly giving. Revenue shortfall of approx. \$10,000.00 was due to lowered parking lot revenue. Expenses are tracking nicely. Given the current pandemic, Calvary's financials are amazing. In July, we received an unplanned gift, therefore we will be ahead in revenue for July. 100% of our PPP money is being used for payroll, so we expect 100% forgiveness. The use of PPE for payroll is one reason our cash balance is high.

Scott noted that Steve and Harry's work in closing down unused parts of our building is saving approx. \$2,000-3,000 per month on utilities. We hope to carry some of those practices forward.

Steve noted that Calvary Place's \$3,000.00 per month utilities subsidy will begin again in July.

Tony reported that an endowment meeting is planned for next Tuesday. The endowment fund has come back, along with the market in general, since its low in March. Hall Gardner and Katie Owen will be working with Steve as the church takes over the endowment. Hall and Katie have a great deal of institutional knowledge.

Tony also noted that Steve Smith and Cindy Yeager have been wonderful during this time.

Scott noted that he and Margaret McLean spoke about the upcoming Annual Giving campaign. It will look very different this year. The national church is holding a webinar regarding giving campaign strategies during this time.

The Financial Report was approved by the Vestry, with John Webb making the motion and Anna Kathryn Word seconding.

Virtual Church Check-in: Scott Walters

Scott noted that Covid-19 numbers are not good. Scott checks in weekly with Scott Morris and other area pastors regarding Covid-related information/ideas. Henry Sullivant attended last week's Sunday service and stated that he feels really good about the safe way we are handling our Sunday services. The Bishop has given the OK for baptisms, and we will have baptisms starting again this Sunday.

On Sunday, August 9th, we will have an outdoor Founder's Day service at the Metal Museum, with physical distancing and people sitting on blankets on the ground. We are looking into the idea of more outdoor services at the Metal Museum.

Kristin Lensch is reviewing research on safety as relates to singing. Outdoor singing is evidently much safer than indoor singing.

Online live viewing numbers for Sunday services has decreased; perhaps just similar to the normal summer decreased attendance in normal times. We are continuing to track numbers – we want to be sure people continue to feel connected.

Hilary Chipley is stepping down from her role as Director of Children and Family Ministries. Her mother in Wisconsin is sick, and Hilary will need to be there often during the next year. Please keep Hilary in your prayers. The planned ½ day retreat regarding formation has been postponed.

Amber asked that if we know any good people in children/family ministry, please let her know. Amber will be meeting with a few parents at church to discuss resources and what we can do for families with children. If interested in being included in this meeting, let Amber know. Amber noted that there will be lots of opportunities to talk about creative ways to assist children/families. Ex: education-related? Small pod-based learning?

Ginny Strubing noted that Hilary has been a great asset and she's sad to see Hilary go.

Will Hayley noted that Covid-19 is a disaster for our homeless neighbors and reminded us that Christine Todd has a list of ways to assist in Outreach. Will posted this information on Basecamp for us. Please tell Christine Todd thanks for her hard work.

Visioning Workshop Followup: Scott Walters/Kim Kitterman

Mike Hammond joined our Zoom vestry meeting at this time. Scott introduced Mike, who attends Calvary with his wife, Olivia. Mike had done some sketches a few years ago for the parking lot. Today, Mike and Scott walked around the parking lot, discussing space and lower budget ideas.

Mike is excited that there is a desire to do something near-term on the corner, to serve as a temporary solution to the current eyesore. He mentioned the term “tactical urbanism.” With not much money or effort, we can create a cool corner for Calvary and the community. Mike asked us some questions: Who would use? How would/could it be used? At what time of day? What are ideas of shade, lighting, and seating? What could the corner be used for?

Ideas from vestry members: a small worship/meditation space; picnic tables or other seating for small group meetings; inviting with more greenery; trees in big pots, perhaps to be planted permanently when we make our permanent improvements; something representing an altar (mentioned stone slab outdoor altar at Trezevant); making the corner more inviting, more garden-like; there is more space in that corner than we think; maybe block off entrance from 2nd Street and make those parking spaces into green space; we don’t necessarily want to take possession of alley from city due to infrastructure running underneath; anything we do in current parking spaces needs to be temporary/moveable; altar situated so that small group could face altar from one direction and larger group could face it from opposite direction, for differently-sized services; would need to water plants; now is a great to plan for this temporary installation, so we could enjoy it in this fall’s cooler weather; raised beds to define spaces.

Mike Hammond mentioned that a temporary installation would be a good test – we would get to see how the temporary space we create is actually used. Other ideas for the corner: free wifi? Mike mentioned that lots of urban parks have open wifi. Scott mentioned idea from another city: an orchard/garden that is a gift to the city, free to pick figs, tomatoes, etc. Mention of involving school in plantings; Urban Earth’s community garden.

Brett Norman joined our Zoom vestry meeting at this time.

Scott mentioned that he would like to include Building and Grounds in the conversation. Mike and Scott mentioned idea of gathering for outdoor meals at tables appropriately spread out.

Mike will send some projects we can look at for ideas. He mentioned Memfix – helped with the Broad Avenue project. Mike likes idea of test-fitting all kinds of ideas, even seasonal. Try something for 3 months – if it doesn’t work like we envisioned, try something else. Great opportunity to try things without huge investment.

Brett looked at map of our downtown and other green spaces. We are near some other green spaces. What are our neighbors doing with their green spaces? Possible partnership

with other downtown property owners? Brett mentioned the Memphis River Parks Partnership led by Carol Coletta. Brett also mentioned that the organizer of Cooper-Young Walk would like to create a region-wide garden walk. If we were connected to other downtown park areas, we could create a community garden walk/tour. Brett mentioned that the corner's berm and hollies seem to separate the corner from the rest of church and lot; perhaps we could clear/remove some of the visual barriers this fall. We could also create a dedicated walkway (pavers/paint/visual clue) from back doors of church to corner. Discussed idea of temporary awnings/sailcloth to be moved/used to create shade. Perhaps set posts in concrete? Use lighting, too.

Kim mentioned that our January visioning was purposely big; for now, let's do what we can to make the corner more inviting.

Scott – before next month, we will ask some interested people to join Mike and Brett on a committee to work on this corner. By next month's vestry meeting, we hope to have some concrete ideas for temporary fixes.

Vestry Nominations Brainstorming: Scott Walters/ Kim Kitterman

Scott asked us to begin thinking about upcoming vestry nominations. Who in congregation would be interested and have the talents and gifts we need? Kim noted possibility that new vestry members' first vestry meetings might be by Zoom. Should we rethink timing?

Adjournment: Scott Walters

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Bethell, Clerk