

Calvary Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2020
via Zoom

Vestry Members Present: Kim Kitterman, James Aldinger, Lisa Buckner, Madge Deacon, Will Hayley, Kathryn Jasper, Nancy Manire, Heidi Rupke, Ginny Strubing, Edwin Thorpe, Laura Trott, Anna Kathryn Word

Vestry Members Absent: Bailey Fountain, John Owen, and John Webb

Clergy Present: Scott Walters, Amber Carswell and Paul McLain

Others Present: Julie Bethell, Steve Smith, and four of our five recently-elected vestry members whose terms begin in January, 2021: David Cocke, Elizabeth Crosby, Zach Ferguson, and Jerry Scruggs. The fifth incoming vestry member, Greta Cooper Young, was unable to attend.

Call to Order: Scott Walters called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Scott welcomed the recently-elected vestry members who are able to join our Zoom meeting tonight.

Prayer: James Aldinger led us in prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Scott Walters
The October vestry meeting minutes were approved.

Financial Report: Steve Smith

October Revenue/Expenses Report and October Balance Sheet are not ready for vestry review tonight; Steve Smith and others have been busy working on required paperwork for our recently-received grant.

Steve can report to us that our cash balance is good, even though we are purchasing items that are covered by the grant. We then submit our receipts and are reimbursed by the grant.

Steve also reported that the Annual Giving campaign is going well. Pledge cards and online pledges are coming in steadily. At this point, the balance for incoming pledges is \$847,418. We have 161 pledging units so far. The average pledge is up 11% from last year. The Annual Giving campaign committee is following up with traditional pledgers to give them gentle reminders to make their pledges.

Steve reported that Tony Graves hopes to have the proposed 2021 budget ready to present at our December vestry meeting.

There are no financials to approve at this meeting. Reports will be completed soon.

Rector's Report: Scott Walters

Calvary's Covid task force met on Sunday to check back in with our doctors regarding our Sunday services and Room In the Inn. At this meeting, Dr. Henry Sullivant gave a grim report regarding hospital capacity due to very sick (non-Covid) patients in addition to Covid patients. Henry Sullivant affirmed that he believes the processes we have in place for Sunday morning services are orderly and safe.

Scott is in contact with other area pastors and physicians, including Dr. Scott Morris and Dr. Manoj Jain, regarding Covid and church services.

Edwin Thorpe noted that we are at the beginning of our next surge, and that Shelby County Health Department directives will dictate what we are able to do for services. Edwin also noted that all medical professionals are concerned with the upcoming holiday period and how our behaviors will impact Covid rates.

Ginny Strubing noted that we can encourage our older parishioners to get their flu and pneumonia shots.

Zach Ferguson noted that due to the rising Covid numbers, a new health directive will be announced by the Shelby County Health Department and our mayor within the week. Guidelines will be given for churches.

Scott reported that this Friday is the Diocesan Convention. It will be held virtually, but smaller groups of participants will be gathering in person at various churches, including Calvary.

Scott then updated us on the Hub Building and Calvary Park ideas:

We received \$200,000 of PPP money for Covid and used that money properly. We are approaching the end of the year in a strong financial position. We have discussed that we should use the \$200,000 we have as a result of receiving the PPP money to help others. Both the Endowment Committee and the Finance Committee also mentioned this idea of helping others with this extra money.

Possible ways to use that money include Calvary Park and the Hub building. (The Hospitality Hub services have now moved out of the Hub building into their own new building.)

We have been approached by Room In the Inn regarding the possibility of other groups using our space to host RITI during the week. We could use the Hub building in this way, but it is in bad shape and needs upgrades. In fact, the Hub building needs work done, no matter how we decide to use the building.

Scott proposed the idea of using \$50,000 of the PPP money to finish Calvary Park, and \$100,000 of the PPP money to bring the Hub building up to a habitable state with some amenities that can be used by RITI. Various vestry members mentioned that the Hub building needs a new roof and mold remediation, and that showers and laundry facilities would be a wonderful addition to the Hub building for use by our RITI guests. Kathryn Jasper mentioned that showers would also be helpful when Calvary hosts Happening and mission groups. John Pruett has a contractor ready to look at the Hub building.

Christmas Eve Discussion: Kim Kitterman/Scott Walters

Idea: We would like to hold one of our Christmas Eve services outside at the Levitt Shell. The Levitt Shell has agreed to let us use their space on Christmas Eve late afternoon. Attendance numbers would be limited, as they were when we held our All Saints service there. We will need to provide portable toilets, because their bathrooms are being updated and are not open for use. Vestry members are very supportive of this idea. Most vestry members indicated that they would be more comfortable attending the outdoor service than the indoor service later that evening.

Scott also noted our Covid task force approved Kristin Lensch's idea of singing Christmas carols at the outdoor service.

We would also hold a later Christmas Eve service in the church, with our normal limited numbers. This service would be live-streamed. (The outdoor service would not be live-streamed.)

Zach Ferguson mentioned that we might want to get a written opinion from the Shelby County Health Dept. regarding singing carols at the Levitt Shell service. He also mentioned that if Covid numbers continue to rise, the maximum number of persons allowed at the Levitt Shell may be reduced.

Other matters:

Madge Deacon mentioned that the AIDS banner was installed today. Scott mentioned the recent death of one of our parishioners, Tommy Pacello.

Adjournment: Scott Walters

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Bethell, Clerk