

Calvary Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Agenda & Minutes
April 20, 2021, 6 pm
Great Hall

Attendees: Ginny Strubing, Nancy Manire, Lisa Buckner, Zach Ferguson, Laura Trott, Scott Walters, Amber Carswell, Will Hayley, James Aldinger, Madge Deacon, David Cocke, Paul McLain, Greta Cooper Young, Kathryn Jasper, Bailey Fountain, Elizabeth Crosby, Anna Kathryn Word (via Zoom), Steve Smith . . . **Absent:** John Owen, Jerry Scruggs

Call to Order

Scott Walters

Opening Prayer

Madge Deacon

An Interfaith Universal Prayer for Peace

We pause in quiet reflection to offer this prayer for a peaceful world. In our individual and personal ways, we call upon the Holy One who sustains our lives and who inspires us to live with compassion and kindness and peace. We ask for daily guidance in all our personal relationships; in our work and play, and in our community involvement that we might model the possibilities of peace in everything we say and in everything we do. We pray for wisdom and compassion within the hearts and minds of all world leaders who have the power and the responsibility of making decisions that impact the presence of peace. We pray for courage, dedication, and integrity within the spirits of all those who work for peace around the world. We pray for all those who harbor thoughts and feelings of hatred, violence, and greed that their hearts and minds and souls will be transformed into Your likeness of compassion and kindness. We are thankful for Your presence within our lives and ask for Your blessing as we try to live peaceful lives and seek ways for all people to live in harmony and peace.

Dr. John Heidel's Interfaith Prayer
Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace

Approval of March Vestry Retreat Minutes (2 session meeting)

Scott Walters

Minutes include notes & Retreat Assignment Materials from Kat Gordon . . . Unanimously approved

Financial Report

**Tony Graves /
Steve Smith**

- See written reports from Tony / Steve
- 1st quarter looks good
- Reimbursable grant – all funds coming back, following expense of grant funds
- Waffle Shop / LPS funds not yet analyzed
- Praise from Vestry for all the work of the financial team
- Unanimous approval of financial report

Rector's Report

Scott Walters

Kat Gordon – Happy to do a follow-up session with Vestry

Paul – Sabbatical . . . here 5 years; sabbatical planned for May – July 2022; Lily Foundation Grant; Scotland / Iona . . . Grant covers travel for Scott & Ruthie and provides support for Calvary during this period; Scott will be at General Convention for two weeks during this time; Vestry approval required; All Vestry members excited for Paul & Ruthie; David and Laura moved to approve; unanimous approval

Review of Survey findings from February, 2021 . . . Master Plan prior to Capitol Campaign . . .
Meg Crosby documented findings . . . See Survey and documentation . . . This information will be shared with the congregation . . . Vestry encouraged to “read, mark, & inwardly digest” this document

Discussion of possible revisions to Sunday Morning Schedules – Set “Welcome Back” date for September 12 (Sunday after Labor Day). Parishioners will gradually move back to regular in-person attendance. Wardens Meeting discussion of possible schedule changes. Consideration of a trial schedule through the Fall. Proposed schedule will have Formation between the two services to bring the “two congregations” together, and to allow participation of choir members for the majority of the formation hour, up to the time when they must leave for rehearsal. Laura shared her thoughts on the safety measures of decreased traffic flow if people go directly to formation classes prior to service. **Zach** . . . Could we consider a trial run of 10:30 service over course of service, and then blend in the formation hours with the Fall schedule. . . No decisions tonight . . . **Kathryn** – people will try to be here on time for the things in which they are interested. . . **Ginny**, as a teacher, has had complaints from children of being hungry during the late Sunday School schedule. . . Vestry asked to consider these options. . .

New Youth Formation Leader – Jeremy **Demarest**– currently lives in Texas; Worked for last three years as Youth Director in Texas (covering ages 0 – 18) . . . Working on Masters in **Youth & Family Ministries**; Will continue studies via continuing education; Young; Vibrant; has creatively continued his youth ministry work in Texas via ZOOM during pandemic shutdown and kids have stayed actively involved. His girlfriend lives in Shelby County and is part of Teach for America. Will be responsible for ages 0 – 5th grade at Calvary. He will build a new program here. Questions from Ginny about how existing teachers will interact with him. Currently a Presbyterian and has had an Episcopal coach. Anna Kathryn has met him via ZOOM and is quite impressed with him. Has a passion for downtown ministries. Has studied comedy and improv! Will come to Calvary in August. . . . Kudos to Amber who led this process and worked through a host of amazing candidates.

Associate Rector Search – Scott is “searching hard” for a woman of color for this position. Several parishioners are volunteering to help with various activities that are / have been Amber’s responsibilities (i.e., Heidi will help with formation)

Hub renovation slowly but surely underway

Retreat Follow-Up: Team Activities

**Laura Trott /
Anna Kathryn Ward**

Laura leading activity . . . handout distributed and discussion of what can we do NOW to Welcome People to Calvary . . . in anticipation of welcoming both newcomers and current parishioners to Calvary, especially as we begin Fall Schedule . . .

Three Focus Groups:

1. Calvary West Entrance (Front Doors)

2. Calvary East Entrance (Awning)
3. Calvary Online (Website, FB, YouTube, Instagram)

Five Improvements for Fall Kick-Off

1. Navigation
2. Welcome
3. Habits, actions, adjustments, known/unknown
4. Vestry Shared Values: Caring for All, Vibrancy, Courage, Heritage

Begin investigations tonight and report back at May Vestry meeting. Each team should have an organizer/facilitator and a reporter/note-taker.

Kathryn – story of a church in her neighborhood which had previously had neighbors with children and pets gathering on their park/field areas . . . Now padlocked with sign that says “Private Property”

Scott – welcome often happens before we have a chance to explain it, so it should be obvious!

Vestry members “counted off” to become members of one of the three focus groups. Each group met briefly to discuss their topic and plans for more in-depth review and discussion prior to the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Clerk’s Note: As with our recent “in person” meetings, comments may have been missed due to COVID-related mask-wearing requirements. Please share any missed remarks / key points.

Respectfully submitted,

Madge L. Deacon
Vestry Clerk
Calvary Episcopal Church

Vestry Shared Values

Caring for All

Vibrancy

Courage

Heritage