

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sister Bay
Vestry Meeting, Sept. 19, 2021
MINUTES

The meeting convened at 11:10 a.m. in the Canterbury Room.

Attendees were Frank Maxwell, Betsy Rogers, George Hughes, Paul Neuman, Pete Thelen, Susan Hoffert, Trudy Jischke, Lori Holton, Carol Heil, Norma Bramsen via FaceTime, Carolyn Finch, Karen Malzahn

Opening prayer

Carolyn offered the opening prayer.

Procedural

The September agenda was approved.

September minutes were approved. Susan recommended that if members didn't receive a copy within a week or so of the meeting, they contact her to be sure they weren't inadvertently left off the email listing.

Interim Rector's report

Submitted electronically. Frank included a sample copy of a rector job position. He also clarified that his offer to stay as long as we needed to find a permanent rector was not, as rumor had it, to line his own pockets, but to allow us to find the right person as he lives in Sturgeon Bay. He also noted his bishop will have new work for him once his time at St. Luke's concludes.

Discussion was held on the need for a more targeted and wider range stewardship campaign in light of the need to fund a full-time rector. Frank passed a chart outlining the minimum compensation and benefits schedule for full-time clergy. It included the monetary difference between Barb's compensation and the future rector, whether the person is single and newly graduated from seminary, married or married with children. The difference for an experienced rector was also noted. Karen pointed out that the numbers did not include the 1% increase the Diocese has recommended for 2022 salaries.

Frank noted that in a non-Covid era he would recommend a multi-week stewardship campaign ending with a nice dinner for donors that included a guest speaker and a presentation. Given we have to consider Covid restrictions we will need to focus on communicating the needs through various media. Once the treasurers give him the necessary numbers, he'll develop a chart that will help parishioners understand our financial needs and the full implications of their giving.

Lectionary study will resume in October.

Senior Warden's report

Betsy passed a thank you card from Barb for the scholarship established in her name.

Betsy noted she met with the Bishop who expressed enthusiasm about St. Luke's and shared his vision that we continue to grow the Episcopal presence in Northern Door County. She mentioned it was clear that he wants us to hire a full-time rector.

Barb had asked if she could continue to hold her Clearing class in the Canterbury Room. Betsy checked with Meredyth who did not encourage that idea given the short time since Barb's retirement. The Vestry agreed that for now we will defer the request.

The budgeting for video was deferred to the Treasury report.

Interest in restarting the Zoom coffee hours has increased now that seasonal members are returning to their winter homes. Discussion raised the question of how often and when. Sunday mornings are difficult as Frank and others who attend services would have a hard time getting home in time for logging into the coffee hour. Sunday afternoons clash with football and other activities. Karen suggested that we hold them on Wednesday evenings in place of the Canterbury Cinema. It was decided to hold the coffee hours (which now could be more of a wine and cheese hour) on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 5 p.m. Central time beginning in October. Trudy suggested we provide a question to help break the ice, similar to the original coffee hours.

Only Betsy and Judy Bush have expressed interest in resuming the Eucharist visits. Additionally, Scandia is still under strict visitation rules so that may not be feasible for the near future.

Junior Warden's report

No report.

Treasurer's report

Submitted electronically. Accounting has been revised for the Wright Legacy so it no longer distorts the giver-of-record category. Outreach is now also split into two parts. The remaining \$15,000 of the tithe is reserved for Masvingo.

Fidelity lost some money this month. Pledges continue to be submitted. A burst of pledge activity is to be expected during the last two months of the year because, among other things, IRA distributions enable donors to meet their pledges and other donors notice they need to complete their overall pledge for 2021.

The Diocese was pleased with St. Luke's financial record keeping. They had three suggestions: update I-9 files; develop a form for in-kind contributions (Frank will develop a form); and consider finding a way to provide information on the priest's Discretionary Account activity.

Sunday plates have been minimal. Because the first Sunday of the month's plate was given to the discretionary fund but is no longer sufficient, Karen suggested we may need to supplement it with funding from the budget. Frank will write an enews article to explain what that fund is used for and ask for better contributions.

If we decide to livestream or videotape services for next year, we will need to budget for that service. Discussion was held on how to keep those costs down.

The treasurers and bookkeeper will work with the counters to streamline the counters' sheets so they are more intuitive.

Discussion was held and agreement was reached to begin direct deposit for employee salaries.

Stewardship

No report other than the discussion under the Interim Rector's report.

Outreach

Trudy reported that it is getting difficult to get food from Piggly Wiggly during the summer because they are so busy and have difficulty filling shelves. She will meet with Open Door to discuss strategy and look at alternatives.

Pete has been in contact with his sources at Fort McCoy regarding the refugees' needs. They have had a tremendous outpouring of donations but Pete's contacts cautioned this will lessen in a few months and we can perhaps be of greater help then. One item they do need is prayer rugs.

Old business

None.

New business

Susan volunteered to lead opening prayer for the October meeting. Because the October meeting is scheduled for Fall Fest weekend it was agreed to move it to the 24th at 3 p.m. And, as Betsy will not be here, we will conduct that meeting by Zoom.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hoffert
Vestry Clerk