

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS – February 2022

A virtual meeting of the Vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd was held pursuant to the Bylaws and by the order of the Vestry on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Members Present: The Reverend Dr. Doug Scharf, Fr. Derek Larson, Michael Howard, Heather Graham, Ian Anderson, Carol Block, Beth Bohnsack, Brad Davis, Akintunde Owosina, Tracy Smith, Zachary Gouery (Youth Representative), Mike Greene, Merike Seely and Mark Chittum.

The meeting opened with prayer.

The first item for the meeting was the annual orientation for all Vestry members. Topics included the Vestry job description and five things every Vestry member should know. Orientation ended with the naming of the Vestry officers. They are Heather Graham, Senior Warden; Mike Howard, Junior Warden; Mark Chittum, Clerk; and Mike Greene, Treasurer.

The **agenda** was approved as presented.

Financial Reports: Mike Greene reviewed Financial Report for January. The quarterly Property and Liability payment was made. In addition, a new restricted account for the pennies shed was established. There are no significant financial issues currently.

School Financial Reports: The School Financial Reports for December was presented. School tuition receipts continues to be strong.

2022 Giving Update: Merike Seely reported that the Giving goal of \$675,000 has been achieved. As of the start of the meeting the church had pledges in the amount of \$677,316 from 197 individuals and families.

Parochial Report: The 2021 Parochial Report was reviewed and approved by the Vestry. It is due at the Diocese by March 1, 2022.

Covid Protocols: As of February 11, 2022, Masks are optional in church buildings.

New Initiatives: Fr. Larson said that the Community Engagement Taskforce is focusing on gathering information on our community. The task force is developing demographic information and conducting surveys as part of ways to better connect with our community. A spiritual life team is seeking to enhance spiritual practices including such programs as morning prayer, labyrinth, and healing. Brad Davis discussed Sunday school redesign to reengage families with Sunday School. Items of focus include back to normal operations, facilities, and the nursery.

Youth Report: Zachary Gouery was welcomed as the new youth representative. Zachary highlighted several youth activities. They included the pancake mix sale, the Souper Bowl food donation program, and an upcoming youth bowling outing. Locations for a pilgrimage destination is being considered with two locations of interest being New Zealand and Nova Scotia. The mission trip will be in Charleston, SC.

Senior Warden Report: Heather Graham welcomed the new Vestry members. Heather also thanked Merike and the staff on their work in completing the Parochial Report.

Junior Warden Report: Property work continues. Mike Howard identified ongoing activities including AC servicing, ice machine repairs and failure of the kitchen disposal. A new landscaping company has started, and a new rental agreement was signed for the Ridgewood property.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM with a prayer.