

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS – September 2021

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, September 21, 2021.

Members Present: The Reverend Dr. Doug Scharf, Fr. Derek Larson, Michael Howard, Gwen Gouery, Heather Graham, Beth Bohnsack, Beverly Cunningham, Tracy Smith, Kathy Hawken, Rob Taylor, Matt Ulman, Merike Seely, Mike Greene, and Mark Chittum. Bishop Peter Eaton was also present.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Conversation with Bishop Eaton: Bishop Eaton conducted a general dialogue with the Vestry focusing on how we are doing as Christians and how has the parish doing during this time on Covid. The consensus is Good Shepherd met the challenges of the pandemic creatively and that we are still working to be successful in the future.

Bishop Eaton also discussed the following programs of the Diocese.

- The Safe Church program to ensure that all persons are safe in our care
- Anti-Racism training aimed at diversity equality and inclusion
- Maintaining appropriate protocols for the Covid pandemic
- Support of the Diocesan appeal for Haiti. Good Shepherd will be contributing approximately \$13,000.
- The development of a \$50 million endowment for the Diocese which enable the assessment to be reduced to 10%.

The **agenda** was approved with a minor modification to remove the election of a new Vestry member.

Financial Reports: Mike Greene reviewed Financial Report for August. The reports were reviewed in detail and showed that the parish remains in good financial condition. Year to date the parish continues to have a positive operating surplus.

School Financial Reports: School financial reports for May, June and July were presented and approved. Also presented was the Year-end 2020—2021 Financial Report. The school ended the year with a small operating deficit which was very good given the impact of Covid on schools.

PPP Loan Update: Mike Green informed the Vestry that PPP loan has been forgiven.

COVID Safety Protocols and procedures: There will be increased Covid safety protocols put into place for the Confirmation service to support Bishop Eaton. Church staff is scheduled to reassess the current covid protocols after the bishop's visit.

BRIDGE Plan Update: Work on the BRIDGE plan continues.

Fall Program Planning Update: Merike Seely presented an extensive list of activities scheduled to occur this fall. The included: Grow Sundays, blessing of the animals, Labyrinth walk, Diocesan Convention, Daughters of the King program in November, Holiday Bazaar and Run for the Pies.

Safeguarding God's Children Training: All Church leaders including staff, the Vestry and individuals working with children must take the Safeguarding God's Children training program.

Senior Warden Report: Heather Graham congratulated Fr. Larson on the announcement of his family expecting a baby.

Junior Warden Report: Mike Howard identified completed and ongoing maintenance items/projects. They included: Continuing AC replacements and repairs; completion of room modifications and painting in the Ryan building, Plantings at the labyrinth and plantings on the south side of the church.

Website: Merike Seely reported that the websites are being consolidated and are in transition. There may be links broken so please contact Merike if you encounter any problems.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM with a prayer led by the Senior Warden, Heather Graham.