

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sister Bay**  
**Vestry Meeting, May 16, 2021**  
**MINUTES**

Due to the pandemic, the meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom. The meeting convened at 1 p.m.

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

Guest: Doug Schwartz

**Opening prayer**

Carol offered the opening prayer.

**Sarah Wright bequest investment policy**

To accommodate our guest, the meeting began with a discussion on the Wright bequest. Doug sent a letter earlier explaining our current investment strategy which covered his perspective from a historical side. Frank recalled that Brett Bicoy from the Door County Community Foundation (who presented in March) had mentioned that DCCF could help us even without our investment in the foundation. Betsy clarified that this financial counsel would be limited without our investment. Doug explained that we currently split the investments between the Diocese Common Trust and the Fidelity account to diversify our long-term holdings. He is satisfied with the split. Discussion continued on whether to invest with DCCF. Karen pointed out they don't actually invest more locally than the Diocesan Fund. She also raised concerns about bias since Mother Barb is now on the board of directors. Pete made a motion to invest one third of the bequest in the Diocesan Common Trust, one third in Fidelity and one third in DCCF. Lori seconded. Discussion continued. George raised the concern about investing before we hire our permanent rector. Paul asked who would be overseeing this investment in DCCF. Doug cautioned against haste considering the difference in returns and fees. With so many concerns, George called the question (a motion to end the debate). A vote on the motion of dividing the investment into thirds was taken and failed. Frank and Betsy abstained. Frank suggested we apply our current investment strategy with the bequest funds, adding that we continue discussions with DCCF regarding projects we may want to invest in as they come up. George motioned we follow his suggestion. Betsy seconded. Paul reminded the Vestry we have already agreed to retain a 10 percent tithe, which will be kept in the bank account until the Outreach Committee presents a formal plan for its dispersal. George amended the motion to invest the Wright bequest (minus the 10 percent tithe) as follows:

Two-thirds in the Diocesan Common Trust

One-third in the Fidelity Fund

Betsy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Procedural**

The May agenda was approved.

The April meeting minutes were approved.

## **Interim Rector's report**

Frank submitted electronically. He mentioned that no update has been given regarding mask usage from the Diocesan Covid Task Force.

Attendance at both services has been good. We are getting some guests from Shepherd of the Bay as they have heard Frank is our interim rector and want to see him again.

Frank hopes to hold the class on race (starting in June) in person and possibly a Zoom component. He is investigating options.

## **Senior Warden's report**

Betsy asked Vestry members to suggest names of potential Search Committee members so we can compare notes and move forward at the upcoming meeting with Merydith. She asked that names be sent to her prior to our meeting.

She noted we need volunteer counters and that after long service Jean Barrett has asked someone to step up to succeed her in managing the lay ministries.

Jude Teicher emailed Betsy earlier that while cleaning the upstairs she found a number of prayer shawls. Betsy asked we consider what we can do to keep that ministry going forward. While not volunteering Mary Maxwell, Frank noted she has done this and could offer some good insight. Susan suggested we post something in the Enews.

Betsy will return to Door County by the end of the month. Susan motioned that we hold Vestry Meetings in person starting in June. Carol seconded. Motion passed.

Betsy also will be calling members of her lapsed Foyer Group and sending an email to the other Groups to see if there is interest in reviving them.

## **Junior Warden's report**

George submitted by email. The nave windows are being repaired.

Earlier George sent an email with suggestions for a cleaning schedule. The church and social hall comprise 5,000 feet of floor space. He asked the Vestry to consider what each member thinks needs to be done for cleaning this space, weekly and monthly. Frank proposed we hire professional cleaners to do a thorough cleaning and then schedule a regular schedule for cleaning. Lori made a motion to hire a cleaning service to do a one-time cleaning and an exterminator to clear the area of mice. George reported that no mice have been caught for the past six to eight weeks. Karen suggested we table the exterminator and vote on the cleaning service. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's report**

Karen sent the report via email. She reported there were no surprises.

**Stewardship**

No report

**Outreach**

The Committee will meet in the next two weeks to finalize suggestions for the 10 percent tithe of the Wright bequest.

**Old business**

The question was raised as to when we would discuss plans for use of the rest of the Wright bequest. Betsy suggested it go on the June or July agenda. Frank asked if St. Luke's has a vision plan, which he noted would help us in planning. He offered to help us navigate through that idea.

**New business**

None.

Betsy volunteered to lead opening prayer for the June 20 meeting.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hoffert  
Vestry Clerk