

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sister Bay
Vestry Meeting, Nov. 13, 2022
MINUTES

The meeting convened at 11:30 a.m. Attendees were Frank Maxwell, Betsy Rogers, Paul Neuman, George Hughes, Susan Hoffert, Trudy Jischke, Lori Holton, Carol Heil, Karen Malzahn, Carolyn Finch
Norma Bramsen (via Zoom)

Absent: Pete Thelen

Opening prayer

Lori offered the opening prayer.

Procedural

The November agenda was approved as were the October minutes.

Interim Rector's report

Submitted. Frank, with the agreement of the Investment Committee contacted Nicolet Bank's wealth management department with a request to review other investment products besides CDs that may be more advantageous for us. He is waiting for a return call. He noted that Doug Schwartz has overseen a portion of our investments for free for some time. He is the only person with the login information for that account. Frank reported that Matthew Payne said parish officials must have full access to the accounts at all times. Because this is not the case, the IRS could find any gains we make from the Fidelity investments to be taxable. He suggested that we need a better system of checks and balances. The committee will meet again to discuss this and inform the vestry.

Paul reported that Jean Barrett has offered to coordinate the Christmas Eve reception.

Senior Warden's report

Betsy reminded everyone that in a discussion with Meredyth Albright, the Diocesan Transition Ministry Officer, emphasized strict confidentiality be maintained in regard to the rector candidate.

Junior warden's report

None.

Treasurer's report

Submitted. Since details of our actual rector costs for 2023 will be available around Dec 1, the budget will be shared after that data is incorporated but the Treasurers did explain our anticipated general strategy. Some major expenses in our budget were not spent and enough categories had significantly lower expenditures than projected, many related to still having an interim rector, so that we expect an unusual surplus this

year. We anticipate using that to cover some major expenses in next year's budget, assuming pledge results continue to be positive and hope to reduce the amount we need to withdraw from investments next year to cover outreach and subsidize new rector costs.

The Diocesan Common Trust lost money in the third quarter (Jul-Sept) but Fidelity made money in Oct. Our investments are still down, but not as badly as they were.

Income continues to be steady. On the expense side, the water/sewer bill covering mid-June to mid-September was unusually high. Outreach rounded up the parking lot funds for the food pantry to make it an even \$1000 check.

Stewardship

No report.

Outreach

\$1,000 was given to Door of Life Food Pantry. A reverse Advent Calendar has been distributed asking for food donations each day of Advent.

Altar Guild

Lori and Carol will discuss budget with Karen offline, as they have specific questions regarding costs for flowers and other expenses.

To alleviate crowding in the kitchen during coffee hour, Lori is going to take the used wine cups and altar vessels upstairs for cleaning. She noted that this is a sacred rite and the Guild's work needs to be recognized for what it is by the rest of the congregation. Frank suggested that one of the current bathrooms could be redone into a proper sacristy as part of this elevation. George will check on building codes. Betsy suggested consideration of remodeling the bathroom next to the sacristy sometime in the future.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Discussion was held on reinstating the Scandia Christmas Tea next month. Because outsiders need to be masked at this time and there is an active case there now, it was suggested to reconsider giving out gift bags. Karen pointed out there is \$210 in the budget for such an activity. We will need a coordinator to carry this out.

Carol offered to do the prayer next month. The next meeting will be Dec. 19 via Zoom at 4:30 p.m. Frank offered a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hoffert

Vestry Clerk