

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sister Bay
Vestry Meeting
Dec. 17, 2023
MINUTES

The meeting convened at 12 p.m. Attendees: Brit Frazier, Betsy Rogers, George Hughes, Paul Neuman, Trudy Jischke, Carol Heil, Karen Malzahn, Dick Heil, Pete Thelen and Susan Hoffert. Norma Bramsen attended via Zoom.

Absent: Lori Holton

Ralph Blankenburg, Ray and Carol Ann Osinski and Ross Holton observed.

Opening prayer

Susan read the prayer.

Procedural

The December agenda and November minutes were approved.

Calendar items—Brit acknowledged the great help that Lori Holton and Carol provided in coordinating the numerous Christmas services. Beth Chafey Hon, violinist, and Sue Raye Hughes will provide music for the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Afterward refreshments will be served (parishioners are asked to bring finger food). Sue Raye will also play at the 8 p.m. service and on Christmas Day. Each service will have different hymns and sermons. Karen suggested just offering coffee after the 8 p.m. service rather than treats and coffee. Paul advised that he and Jean will prepare the Canterbury room on Saturday.

It was decided by poll to hold a short service at noon on Jan. 6, the Epiphany.

Rector's report—Brit reported several people have asked about confirmations/receptions. Every other Wednesday a group would meet for a class discussion and dinner in preparation. Timing will depend on the Bishop's calendar. More information to come.

Senior warden's report— Betsy introduced the standard annual motion to approve Mother Brit's housing allowance. George pointed out that because this is a legal document, Brit's full legal name should be used. The motion was seconded by George and passed unanimously.

Betsy also made a motion to agree that St. Luke's will pay the full amount of the Diocesan request—\$22,496 for January 2024. This is \$7,000 more than 2023. Pete seconded and motion passed. The treasurer will notify the Diocese.

The Diocese has recommended that we print financial documents that can be scanned by machine readers. A motion was made by Susan that we acknowledge and accept the recommendation. We will also create an approval statement acknowledging we will follow said recommendation. Carol seconded. Motion passed.

Nominees for the Vestry are:

Ray Osinski
Ralph Blankenburg
Ross Holton (junior warden)
Julie Hubbard
Chris Roedl

Treasurer's report—Our stewardship income is just below \$140,000—the goal was \$150,000. Betsy and Paul will make calls to those not yet pledged.

Discussion was held on creating a matching campaign led by the Vestry to total the match.

Karen noted more people are converting from the Giver of Record designation to pledges.

Betsy moved that the \$3,500 of investment draw be used as seed money for redeveloping the Memorial Garden. George seconded. Five ayes; two nays. Brit motioned that \$2,000 of the draw be in a TBD fund for either the garden or outreach, depending on the costs of the garden. Carol seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Junior warden's report— George pointed out that we do have a cemetery which needs upkeep. Plots sold in the past for \$200. After conversation with Lori, he suggested increasing that to \$500. The cost of a plaque has increased over time to \$750 with a \$250 charge for attaching it to the wall. There is no charge to dig holes. He suggested we need a way to control these funds. Atonement has a separate fund and operates their columbarium as a separate business. Discussion ensued. George asked Susan and Betsy to look for any burial records as they clean out the office files. So far none have been found. Brit emphasized the need, in the new year, to digitize all records in an archive and suggested a separate meeting to organize a Digital Record Committee. Ralph will ask Jane Weis's children for access to her computer for any records. George will stay on managing the garden project.

Other Reports:

Outreach—Pete reported that a formal thank you from the Bishop of Masvingo, Zimbabwe to the Diocese of Fond du Lac clergy and Bishop Gunter praised St. Luke's in particular for our help. We were the only parish mentioned by name.

We were also able to transfer money to the school in Mexico to help children in abject poverty with tuition.

Susan offered a stained glass piece found at Bargains Unlimited by Pat Lee for use as a decoration in the church. Vestry accepted unanimously. She will work with Ross on the best way to display it.

Old business— none.

New business— Carol Ann asked about the annual meeting which is set for Sunday, Jan. 21. A Zoom option will be available. Susan pointed out she will be leaving on Jan. 11 and asked members to get their entries for the Annual Report in by Jan. 5. She will attend via Zoom.

Brit offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hoffert
Vestry Clerk