

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sister Bay
Vestry Meeting, Sept. 18, 2022
MINUTES

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

Absent: Pete Thelen and Carol Heil

Opening prayer

Susan offered the opening prayer.

Procedural

The September agenda was moved up to accommodate George who had to leave early. August minutes were approved with correction of Julie Roenigk's name.

Interim Rector's report

Submitted. The worship schedule has returned to one service on Sundays. Coffee hours have resumed although it is still subject to how high the COVID numbers are each week. Although Frank is unsure when a new rector will be hired he is continuing plans for discipleship classes in October, the November Thanksgiving eve meal and lessons and carols in December. Betsy assured him that he and the vestry expect to have a three-month lead time before finalizing a call and the new rector's arrival. Lori brought up concerns over communications in general—clipboard alley doesn't seem to be effective in soliciting volunteers and it would be good to know, if we can, when our seasonal members will be leaving. She said the Altar Guild plans to send out a monthly update so everyone knows what is going on with that group. It was agreed that a monthly happy hour via Zoom keeps people interested and connected. COVID has dictated so much of what we can and cannot do that communication has fractured over the past few years. Betsy asked if it would help to add Altar Guild as well as volunteers to bring flowers to the list of needs that Frank sends via email. One suggestion was to take all the lists out of clipboard alley except for special events.

Senior Warden's report

Betsy sent an updated task list and asked if anyone had additions. She pointed out that this list was only for vestry and management; it doesn't include other ministries. It was suggested to include the upcoming month's duties to each vestry meeting agenda.

Betsy went to the Village office about posting two signs (from each direction) on Highway 57 for St. Luke's. During the conversation she discovered that a 20-24 foot strip of land extending from the edge of Canterbury Road onto our property is not owned by St. Luke's but by Scandia. A Village staffer suggested that Scandia may have purchased a strip of land from Highway 57 onto the Scandia property when the facility

was built in 1971 to provide road access to the retirement facility and deeded the necessary road right-of-way to the Village, leaving them in possession of land on both sides of the road. Scandia owns a similar strip along the south side of the road. St. Luke's has been maintaining this land for the past 20 years and she thinks that perhaps because of adverse possession, we may now actually own it. She suggested that we approach Scandia and explain the issue and ask for a quiet transfer. George suggested we get a surveyor to find the property markers. In any case because Highway 57 is a state road, we must get state approval for signs before seeking village approval. Betsy decided not to pursue until we work out the ownership.

Carolyn noted that the ownership question doesn't affect the need for St. Luke's to have some visibility among all the new construction surrounding the church. Betsy asked Frank to contact the original survey company to find the property markers and will apply to the State Department of Transportation. She plans to keep the Village administrator in the loop to avoid any other issues.

Also a visitor to services this morning noted we need to update the website as it still shows we are offering two services on Sundays.

Junior warden's report

Submitted. The emergency exit in the Canterbury Room has been repaired. Lori said she's noticed several trucks in our lot during the day. It's presumed they belong to workers on the clinic site.

Treasurer's report

Submitted. We are on budget. Diocesan transfers as well as increased pledges and reduced expenses have brought combined checking and savings balances to more than \$125,000. Since more than \$50,000 in excess funds are intended to cover new rector expenses, it was suggested they should be set aside at a higher yielding, yet safe and accessible fund until the new rector is called. Betsy noted this will be referred to the investment committee.

Stewardship

Betsy and Paul met and a letter is being drafted. Because we raised a good deal of money earlier this year in anticipation of a new pastor by Christmas, they are reluctant to ask the parish to again dig deep. The letter will be in part a thank you for members' past generosity and to ask them to do what they can. It will go out by Oct. 20 with a draft sent earlier to the vestry for input.

Outreach

In Pete's absence, Frank reported. No new information was available regarding the fall concert. Twelve people have volunteered to help with parking at Fall Fest. We probably need a meeting to discuss logistics. Trudy assured the vestry we will have a sign noted that all proceeds will go to the Door of Life.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Paul offered to do the prayer next month. The next meeting will be Oct. 23 following the 10 a.m. service. Frank offered a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hoffert

Vestry Clerk