

St. Boniface Episcopal Church
March 16, 2023 Vestry Meeting Minutes Approved April 20, 2023

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 5:58 pm.

Roll Call

Vestry Members Present - Larry Patton, via Zoom (Senior Warden) , Randy Thomas (Junior Warden), Zerbe Sodervick, Phil Baker, Holley Schroeder, Justin Miller, Donna Conyers, Rita Valenti-Piovane, Gino Fellin (Zoom), Kay Goodman (Zoom)

Vestry Members Absent - Marjorie Floyd, Prill Nugent

Other Attendees - Wayne Farrell (Rector), Nikki Seger (Asst. Rector), Joe Master (Director of Business and Finance), David Eichlin (Secretary), (Suzanne Barksdale, absent)

Treasurer/Finance Report - There was a loss in February in investments, and payment of monthly expenses have started, however pledge income was up and non-pledge donors increased. Income exceeded the budget by about \$3000. There were some unforeseen expenses, but are in-line for the budget. Sixteen percent of the year has elapsed and we are still behind in reaching our pledge goal. The initial goal was set at \$812,660 and was adjusted downward to \$777,979. We are \$97,228 short of our initial goal and \$62,547 shy of our adjusted goal." A motion was made to accept the February Treasurer's report, seconded and approved.

Executive Session: personnel and compensation matter - The vestry went into executive session and came out of it.

Adoption and approval of actions approved in executive session - Due to the current pricing of residential real estate it is negatively impacting employees relocating to this area when trying to hire the best candidates as well as senior candidates who may be hired in the future. As a result the Rector assembled a team of persons to design a response to this issue.

These outcomes are the result of their meeting:

1) A commitment for a gift of \$15,000 has been secured by a donor (wishing to remain anonymous) to establish a Housing Fund to assist the full-time senior staff of St. Boniface parish (clergy, organist/choirmaster) in purchasing their first residence in the Sarasota area. The donor further directs that this be a perpetual fund and that a reasonable minimum balance be maintained upon which to rebuild the fund by seeking gifts from other donors for future hires.

2) A recommendation that Nikki Seger's compensation package be increased by \$500 per month.

NOTE: Grants and gifts for employee housing are taxable, and subject to assessment by the Church Pension Fund.

The following motions are proposed:

1) The Vestry will accept the \$15,000 gift and establish the Senior Staff Relocation Housing Fund (The Fund). A motion was made to accept the proposal, seconded and approved.

2) The Vestry will award a grant in the amount of \$9,500 from The Fund to The Rev. Nikki Seger to assist in the purchase of Nikki's first home in Sarasota. Proceeds payable at closing. A motion was made to accept the proposal, seconded and approved.

3) The Vestry will approve a \$1710 draw from the Fund to be used to pay Church Pension assessment associated with the Seger grant. (NOTE: This will leave a balance of \$3790 in the Fund, approximately 25% of the original gift.) A motion was made to accept the proposal, seconded and approved.

4) The Vestry will approve increasing Nikki Seger's total compensation package by \$500.00 per month. (Deducting the 18% pension assessment, Nikki Seger's housing allowance will increase beginning May 2023 by \$423 per month (net).) This will be funded for the remainder of 2023 by the General Investment Operating account and by the annual budget thereafter. A motion was made to accept the proposal, seconded and approved.

Committee Reports - Each of the committees are meeting regularly and moving forward on developing their plans for meeting goals for the Strategic Plan. Each month the committees will give an update on how each is moving along to meet their goals.

Congregational Team Building - The committee is exploring ways to build a stronger congregation along with serving the needs of the community.

Hospitality - The committee has identified several ways to make St. Boniface a more welcoming place for both present members and visitors. The Foyers group will be reestablished. The committee will explore enhancing the coffee hour with a special Sunday honoring those with birthdays and anniversaries. The group will work with Wayne and Nikki at reaching out to members who may not be presently attending Sundays to make them feel more included along with engaging and welcoming visitors.

Caring for Youth and Families - The \$2000 dollars needed for the ad in SRQ Out has been reached. The ad will identify St. Boniface as an open and accepting congregation for the LGBTQ+ community. There will be a minute-for-ministry on March 26 by ALSO Out Youth.

Gratitude Commission - Pledge dollars for 2023 are slowly coming in. The committee will also be looking at ways to promote estate planning through the Legacy Foundation.

Grants and Outreach - The committee's goal of \$6000 has been met at distributing grants both nationally and internationally.

Executive Committee Reports

Senior Warden - Larry D Patton, the Senior Warden, reported on the makeup and purpose of the Executive Committee, noting that it does not appear in the current parish Bylaws, which stand in need of review and revision for that and other topics, including procedure when Vestry approval is needed on an exigent basis. Larry also advocated for use of written reports to be transmitted to Vestry members in advance of meetings. He also encouraged consideration of formation of Standing Committees of the Vestry to assist in fulfillment of its duties and responsibilities. He concluded by encouraging each Vestry member to speak out and speak their mind, lest we lose the benefit of their unique life skills, experiences, and expertise.

Junior Warden - Randy reported that there are times when approving contracts is necessary prior to a vestry meeting in certain situations. He asked for approval of the following: Junior Warden's Contracting Authority in Exigent Circumstances

The Vestry adopts the following policy regarding the Junior Warden's authority to approve bids, contracts, and/or invoices for situations requiring action prior to a regularly scheduled Vestry meeting. Exercise of this authority is governed by the following requirements and procedures:

- The bid/contract /invoice must address an exigent circumstance regarding parish buildings or grounds requiring immediate attention and action to avoid enhanced damage or cost likely to result from a delay in action to remedy the situation.
- The Junior Warden will consult with the Rector, Senior Warden, Treasurer and Business Manager to obtain their approval and consent and recommended funding source.
- The bid/contract/invoice will be submitted to the Vestry at its next regularly scheduled meeting for adoption and approval.
- The Junior Warden will provide the Vestry with such written documentation of the need for the immediate action and such other documentation as available. A motion was made to accept the proposal, seconded and approved.

There are a number of projects that continue to be addressed. The biggest one is an issue with the A/C system for the church which is working at 50% of its ability. An initial estimate has been received for \$35,908.33 to get it up to full working order. Since this bid still needs to be finalized and needs to be corrected as soon as possible, a proposal was put forth for the amount not to exceed \$50,000 to complete the work. A motion was made to accept the proposal, seconded and approved.

Asst. Rector Report - Nikki felt the vestry retreat was a great success. Morning and evening prayer during Lent has been successful. The Lent classes have been less successful. Leadership for the Strategic Plan has been great. Pastoral needs of the church are increasing. She continues to fulfill her diocesan responsibilities along with mentoring sessions.

Rector Report - Wayne received the resignation of Prill Nugent from the Vestry due to a family commitment. The remaining Class of 2023 will solicit names to fulfill the term and make a recommendation to the Vestry to finish out the term. The organ received a deep tuning along with the trumpets. There was a training session for ushers, acolytes, and Eucharistic Ministers. There have been 4 deaths and funerals in the last month. Receipts for beach parking have been steady for this time of the year. There will be an instructed eucharist for the Sundays of 3/19 and 3/26. There has been a wave of Covid cases recently so everyone should take the necessary cautions as needed. There was one baptism. The 60th anniversary celebration of the Healing Mission continues and there will be events throughout the year. Wayne has received many compliments about how welcoming the congregation is to new visitors.

Old Business - None

New Business - A memorial gift was received from the Don Harvey family in remembrance of him. A motion was made to accept the gift, seconded and approved. Several motions were presented by the Junior Warden regarding repairs that are necessary for the campus.

- 1) To approve a bid by Siesta Key Landscaping for various plantings in the amount of \$4,210.50. This is for a memorial planting of two palm trees, funded by a gift in remembrance of Don Harvey. The Vestry will approve this expenditure upon the express understanding that this memorial planting does not create an obligation upon Boniface to replace the planting when it expires, only to maintain it with ordinary care. A motion was made to accept the proposal, seconded and approved.
- 2) To approve a bid from Gulf Coast Awning and Design to replace the canvas on the outdoor chapel in the amount of \$12,000 (with \$6,000 as a deposit and remaining amount on completion). Funds will come from Hurricane Restoration . A motion was made to accept the proposal, seconded and approved.
- 3) To approve a bid from Lerch Custom Painting for painting buildings (as listed on the bid) on the St Boniface campus in the amount of \$36,600 (with a deposit of \$11,600 and remaining amount upon completion). Funds will come from the Capital Reserve. A motion was made to accept the proposal, seconded and approved.

approved.

- 4) To approve a bid from Ultimate Air Conditioning not to exceed \$50,000 for the repair and/or replacement of air conditioning units for the Nave building (main building). Funds will come from the Capital Reserve. A motion was made to accept the proposal, seconded and approved.

Acceptance of the February 18, 2023 Vestry Meeting - A motion was made to accept the minutes, seconded and approved.

Vestry minute-for-ministry topics and volunteer speaker - Rita Valenti-Pionane volunteered to present to the congregation.

- 1) Update on the Strategic Plan
- 2) Update on Grants Committee awards

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Calendar Items:

Rise Against Hunger event – Saturday, March 18, 10:00 am Community Center

ALSO Youth speaker – Sunday, March 26, 11:30 am Community Center

Durufié’s Requiem concert – Sunday, March 26, 6:00 p.m.

Taize Service - Saturday, April 1, 6:00 p.m.

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE April 2-9 (*incense)

Palm Sunday begins in the courtyard - 8:45 & 10:45* a.m.

Monday Labyrinth Walk – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday Holy Eucharist with Healing – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Compline 6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Eucharist 12:00 p.m. / Footwashing + Meal - 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday 7:30 a.m. dawn liturgy / 12:00 p.m. Way of the Cross

12:30 – 2:00 meditations / 2:00 p.m. Good Friday liturgy

Center for Spiritual Transformation - Zoom offering, April 8, 10:00 a.m. What Happened at the Tomb

Saturday Great Vigil begins in the Courtyard 7:30* p.m.

Easter Sunday, 8:45 & 10:45* a.m.

Easter Monday (April 10) office closed

Next vestry meeting – Thursday, April 20, 6:00 pm