

MINUTES OF ST. PETER'S VESTRY MEETING

APRIL 16, 2020

Approved May 21, 2020

The second Zoom Vestry meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Those present were: Fr. Georges, Phil Montgomery, Donna Hill, Varsie Geisler, John Boies, Lynne Roberts, Liane O'Keefe, John Vain, Fr. Mark Geisler, and Judy LaPorta, clerk. Anita Biletzky was present by phone as her internet was not working. She later joined the zoom meeting.

Absent: Henry Burgweger

Additions made to the agenda: Old business:

Solar energy, Convention delegates, Formal vote to excuse rent for April on Nolan house.

New business:

General communication

John Boies moved to approve the revised agenda. Phil Montgomery seconded, and the motion carried

Phil Montgomery moved to approve the minutes from the February and March meetings. Varsie Geisler seconded and the motion carried.

Sr. Warden Report: Phil Montgomery reported that he had discussed with Anita Biletzky and John Vain, items for B&G that are in the Junior Warden report

Jr. Warden: Report attached. A discussion regarding painting the stairs to the sacristy, blacktopping the parking lot, and spring cleanup ensued. FPIF has the funds to cover these items. Anita Biletzky has spoken to Will Biletzky and he will paint the steps for \$90.00. Deep cleaning the church and the hall were discussed. Anita recommended that we wait until we have an idea of when we can reopen before actually having it done. She will be getting bids in the meantime.

Caregivers: Lynne Roberts reported that Bethany Health Care has one therapist who tested positive for COVID 19. He did not have contact with Carol Wells and worked on the other side of the building.

The committee has been in contact with our shut ins, sending cards and plants. Everyone is keeping connected.

Outreach: Larry Dirst spoke to someone at the Sycamore Food Pantry. They would prefer cash donations over canned goods. For every dollar donated, they can purchase \$8.00 worth of food from the Northern IL food pantry. They can then choose the items that are in need. The Outreach committee is donating \$500.00. Once we are back to having services at the church, the Red Bowl will be used for donations. In the interim, checks can be sent to St. Peter's with Sycamore Food Pantry in the memo line, or sent directly to the Food Pantry.

Treasurer's Report: Waste Management had issues with their system, causing us to overpay. We now have a credit balance with them. He is researching other companies to process our payroll to see if we can save money, and hopefully work with a local company. There is a gap in income and expense this month. We may have to transfer funds from the carryover account into the operating account next month. Our water and heat bills are down, due to the church being closed.

John Boies moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Phil seconded, and the motion carried.

Old Business

- a. April rent forgiveness – John Boies made a motion to approve the rent forgiveness for the Nolan house for the month of April. Dave has been laid off and money is tight. This had been discussed at the March meeting, however, no formal motion had been made. Anita Biletzky seconded, and the motion carried to forgive the rent for April for Dave & Kelly Potter for the Nolan house.
- b. Solar energy: John Boies, Larry Dirst, and John Vain have been exploring solar energy for the church and hall. Businesses are purchasing and installing solar panels for the tax credit. This would not benefit the church. However, there is a solar field in Paw Paw and we could join this through a company called Nexamp, with no capital outlay. We would pay them for the energy with a 20% discount over what ComEd charges. John Boies moved that the vestry approved this switch over after the contracts were reviewed. Varsie Geisler seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- c. Delegates for convention: Initially two diocesan conventions were scheduled, one regular convention, and one to elect the new bishop. Because of the shelter in place order, there will be only one convention in the fall. John Vain, Lynne Roberts and Barbara Weaver were going to attend the convention in June, and John Vain, Lynne Roberts, and Anita Biletzky to the November convention. It was decided that all four delegates would go the convention and Anita and Barb would vote accordingly.

New Business:

- a. Payroll Protection Program – this program was set up by the Federal government to help small businesses continue to pay salaries during this time. Some churches are taking advantage of this program, while others have opted not to participate to let other small businesses who may have a greater need obtain the money. Because St. Peter’s has the money for payroll and is in stable financial shape, all vestry members agreed that we would not participate in this program.
- b. Communication:
It was brought up that some parishioners didn’t realize the Zoom meetings were actually prayer sessions as well as church updates. Fr. Georges will indicate on the invitations what the “meeting” will entail. Because the information comes directly from zoom, it is called a meeting, regardless of the event.
- c. Phone tree:
It was suggested that a vestry phone tree be established for things like deaths, and other events that may need personal calls rather than e-mails. Some older people have e-mails but don’t check them, so aren’t receiving all of our information. In this time where everyone is required to stay at home,

the vestry could call members to see how they are doing. It was recommended that we ask parishioners questions to see what they prefer as far as communication, and other issues. The vestry members will each come up with 3 questions to discuss at a separate vestry meeting on Wednesday at 7pm.

Rector Report: Fr. Georges reported that in his 25 years as a priest, this was the first year he did not conduct Holy Week services. On the Rector call with the Bishop, a priest who was a doctor said that no one could predict when everything will be able to open back up. Praying for Pentecost. On Palm Sunday Fr. Georges blessed the palms in front of the church and people came by and picked them up. The video of the blessing was on Facebook and our website. Fr. Georges is also posting messages on

Facebook and the website. Fr. Georges said he was just learning zoom, like most of us. We are having prayers on zoom each Sunday at 11:00. He has also scheduled a zoom meeting with the children of the parish for Friday night. He has called 95% of our parishioners and is doing so every two weeks. His calls are well received and if he has to leave a message, people are calling him back. Fr. Georges is in the office every day and available to anyone who needs him. Fr. Georges is also talking to the people who may want to be confirmed.

Phil Montgomery moved the meeting be adjourned, Anita Biletzky seconded, and the motion carried.

After a prayer by Fr. Mark Geisler, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy LaPorta
Vestry clerk