

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
December 17, 2023

Present: Jan Edwards, Fred Cole, Meg Goodrich, Cathy Cole, Kris Mowafy, Arlene Gordanier.

Opening prayer was offered by Meg Goodrich.

Kris Mowafy, Sr. Warden, called the meeting to order

The Minutes from the November meeting was presented, and Kris Mowafy made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Cathy Cole supported the motion; passed.

A question and concern from the congregation was raised regarding the creche/ nativity scene was not set up and several members of the congregation had also voiced this question. A brief discussion was held regarding seasonal planning for advent and the decision was made in the last moments of a planning meeting. The Episcopal Church seeks to honor and celebrate the gifts of cultural diversity and our many ethnic gifts. There have been education and Becoming Beloved Community learning opportunities. It was an oversight to not have this conversation on many levels at St Paul's and we will make this a part of continued Season Planning. An explanation about why the Nativity Scene was not used this Advent will be curated for the This Week at St Paul's online news. Wider and deeper conversations will be sought. We are thankful this concern was brought to the vestry.

(Merry Christmas, early, no new business)

Old Business

We reviewed the Vestry Covenant and asked the vestry to read through the examples from other Episcopal Congregations.

Congregation Survey

Questions on the survey were developed and or edited to reflect the life of the St Paul's Congregation.

Pastoral Care, Hospitality and Welcomers were three areas which need wider conversation.

The Surveys will be published by email, as well as paper copy with a cover letter to introduce the Survey.

The dates chosen are: 1/14/24 after church, 1/28/24 after church and 1/31/24. A Wednesday late afternoon and before the Community Meal.

Jan Edwards updated the discussion about the job description for Sierra Larson,

our Office Administrator. It included Sierra's responsibilities and tasks. This description is still in its formation and discussion. Jan will keep the vestry updated.

Ideas regarding devices and methods of notification of building use were discussed. Smart boards are a thought.

The Financial report will come at a later time---Linc could not be with us.

Peter Goodrich is donating a plasma TV for the Great Room---Peter & Fred will work their magic to move it in and ready for action. Thank You Peter what a wonderful gift, your generosity is appreciated .

Junior Wardens report Cathy and Fred Cole

- The heat tape installation requires an electrician
- Parking at the present time is okay.
- The light at the parking lot entrance will be repaired—it is a “special” project
- Pew removal for more wheelchair accessibility and other special needs will be forthcoming.

The special performance of Tom Lavoy's composition, A Child's Requiem, will be held on Saturday December 30th and will include a reception to follow, provided by the labor federation and others.

The humidifier for the Steinway has been ordered
Two vestry members will need to be elected at the Annual Meeting

Vestry conversation

Action steps with planning events
Intentional PR
Ministry review

Annual Meeting thoughts

Survey reports
Questions & concerns:
Creche and seasonal planning
Sacred places and grants for identified building repairs

Lock-up for January Margie West
Prayers for January ??

Meg Goodrich offered a closing prayer

Meeting Adjourned
Respectfully submitted
Arlene Gordanier
clerk