

# Vestry Check-In Minutes

## August 6, 2020

### Highlights:

- \* Vestry reviewed the results of the congregational survey about online worship and thoughts about resuming limited in-person services. The survey found that online attendance matches, surprisingly closely, in-person attendance previous to the pandemic. Vestry also suggested ways to allow small in-person services to continue even as the weather begins to be unfriendly, such as by purchasing outdoor space heaters.
- \* Members of the Outreach Committee have read *Tears We Cannot Stop* and are working on developing book-discussion group leaders.
- \* Fa. Anthony is getting married on Sept. 12. The ceremony will be live streamed from Christ Church – Cranbrook, his fiancé's church.

Present: Senior Warden Lisa Jones, Rev. Emily Williams Guffey, Christine Galli, Howard Matthew, Betty Warner, Rev. Anthony Estes, Denise Crenshaw, Treasurer George Port, Carolyn Maher, Chuck Atwater, and Secretary Jim Treece. Absent/Excused: Phil Brown, Desmond Jones, Junior Warden Roger Basse.

### Action items underlined.

The meeting opened with prayer by Emily, using the BCP Prayer number 36, “for the oppressed.”

Minutes from the July 23 meeting were approved with one change.

Under **Old Business**, Howard said he had nothing further to report at this time regarding potential apps for morning and evening prayer service sign-ups and wellness screenings, but noted that the most recent Property Use in Pandemic task force's meeting suggested that the Sign-up Genius meets our needs at the moment. Carolyn noted another option: she has been using the Clear2Go app for the last six days, for the Troy H.S. band, with no issues.

As part of our **Dialogue and Reflections** series, Lisa led us in a discussion of song lyrics that move and encourage her.

### **Committee reports.**

**Property Use in Pandemic.** Emily presented the survey results and the group's proposed next steps, including a report to the congregation. There was praise for the report's graphics and visuals. Some were surprised by how closely online attendance matches in-person attendance previously. There was discussion of how best to format the report, and how to make sure it goes to those who aren't online, too.

We next discussed the outdoor morning and evening prayer services, expressing broad delight at being on the campus again. We're renting a tent for this coming week; Carl and Anna say we can borrow their 10'x10' tent as often as needed. There were mixed views on buying inexpensive tents, some support for buying an outdoor space heater for use in the fall and early winter, and comments on how to register someone who is not online for a service, with the suggestion that there should be a place in the form to say that someone assisted. PUP was asked to continue exploring other alternatives for worship and gatherings, including small groups.

**Buildings & Grounds** reviewed their projects.

- Security camera upgrade – under way.
- Floor and foundation. Two bids came in; now doing post-bid interviews to clarify differences in bids. Work should take about a month, we've been told.
- Stormwater drainage – A Q&A with Giffels Webster will happen tomorrow, Aug. 7.
- Bell Tower – under way.

- Boiler repair - Total bid: \$9,224 for two repairs: 1) Left-hand boiler retube, reinstall boiler doors with new gaskets, and perform hydrostatic tests; and 2) repairs to the feed water/return piping. That amount would normally require competitive bidding, but this is an ongoing repair, and Purvis & Foster have done all the work until now.

Motion: To approve the truncated bidding process, and to approve a contract with Purvis & Foster at a cost of up to \$10,000 to do the repairs as suggested by the B&G Committee. **Approved.**

**Finance.** Jane Forbes (committee chair), staffer Sarah Tribelhorn, Christine Galli and Emily will work on an updated budget. The committee is starting Google spreadsheets on each B&G project, to track grants, loans, and disbursements. George: We have received an inquiry on another use of the parking lot. He'll have an update next meeting. Denise: Thanks to Emily for the cover letter that went out with the year-to-date giving records; it was worth the effort.

**Community Outreach.** Members of the Outreach Committee have read *Tears We Cannot Stop* and are working on developing book-discussion group leaders. Reading Camp won't happen in that format this year. We've been in touch with Brilliant Detroit to explore virtual tutoring and literacy efforts, piggy-backing what they do. Sts. Peter and Paul were planning an in-person tutoring group. We've learned we need relationships with students before we begin tutoring, so we're contacting our neighborhood schools to see what the needs are and how we can help. We hope to find a way to deploy the \$1K diocesan grant for Reading Camp in a time-sensitive way.

**Education.** The Education Ministry is exploring ways to offer Christian Education in the fall, based on J2A's experience in the pandemic. That ministry also is exploring a possible four-session pilot project of a book study of *Tears We Cannot Stop*. Not sure about adult Bible Study in the fall, but we're planning for online adult classes, including Episcopal 101, and looking at ways of welcoming newcomers.

#### **Other matters.**

Emily took one day off for her sister's wedding. In line with her commitment to always let the Wardens and then Vestry know before she takes time off, she said she may take a few days off next week, in connection with her move and the start of her sons' school. She has carryover days off left from last year.

Anthony is getting married in 33 days: Sept. 12. The ceremony will be live streamed from Christ Church – Cranbrook, his fiancé's church.

George said he found it very encouraging indeed that people have stayed so loyal. "I take great solace in the fact that people remain engaged" with the church. Others praised his work and his comments.

Chuck noted that as part of our Virtual services, we need to be sure that ChristCD.org be up there as a reference during the Vestry Rep's comments. Keep that script on the screen.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Treece, secretary