



Vestry Minutes -- Approved Sunday, January 31, 2021

Highlights:

*At the first meeting of the 2021 Vestry, including members who had been elected at the Jan. 31 annual meeting, members introduced themselves, stating briefly their spiritual journey and history with Christ Church Detroit. We are a diverse group.

*We discussed the roles of the Vestry officers, and who might take which post, but did not elect officers at this time.

Present: Rev. Emily Williams Guffey, Rev. Anthony Estes, Ruth Boeder, Claire Brown, Mary Brown, Denise Crenshaw, Desmond Jones, John Leney, Carolyn Maher, Howard Matthew, Anthony Mitchell, José Rodriguez, Jim Treece, Betty Warner. Action items underlined.

We opened with prayer by Emily, followed by self-introductions. Without repeating all specifics, the brief bios revealed that we have: four members who were raised in the Catholic tradition; two who were raised as Anglicans outside of the U.S.; two who were raised in conservative denominations; three who are either long-term (in one case, multi-generational) Christ Church members or who previously served on Christ Church's vestry; three who have been Christ Church members for less than two years; three choir members; and 12 Vestry members who are grateful to have Christ Church, Rev. Emily, and Rev. Anthony in their lives.

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing who would serve as Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary. Emily opened the discussion by reviewing how she envisioned those roles, noting that the church needs different attributes at different times.

*Senior Warden: Notable as the legal signatory for the parish. Anytime we need to sign a contract, it's the senior warden. Junior warden is next in line for that. and if Emily unavailable or something happens to her, the senior warden is legally in charge of the church. Emily added that it would be helpful to have one or two people to help her create the Vestry agendas, to co-chair meetings, and to meet with Emily, say, once a month to process what's going on. Where does this or that stand? How can the warden help, perhaps in organizing people? Asking questions, and spending a little more time with Emily to oversee the mission of the church.

*Junior Warden: Although it's common in Episcopal parishes for this person to head Buildings & Grounds, it's not mandatory. Our tradition is for the Junior Warden to focus on a single ministry. It could be B&G, but in Roger Basse's case, it was membership development. Emily

said she'd be quite happy for the two wardens to cooperate as a team, as say co-wardens sharing equally in the role.

Treasurer: We're looking for someone who's curious about systems, willing to ask questions, willing to attend another meeting – the Finance Committee – each month. Not a money person or a financial whiz. Someone who asks questions, because if you have questions, so do others. Developing checks and balances and new systems. FYI, we are hiring a new bookkeeper, and Christine Galli will still be double-checking that the numbers look right on a monthly basis.

Secretary: Take comprehensive notes and report that information to the parish to promote transparency.

Although we adjourned without selecting officers, we expect to do that at the start of our next meeting on Thurs., Jan. 4. Among the points made during our discussion: Desmond doesn't care what title he has, as long as he can continue working on Buildings & Grounds. Denise warned Vestry that she may be travelling sporadically. Betty would happily be co-warden with Denise. Jim is willing to remain secretary.

Before the next meeting, Emily and Jim will prepare orientation documents for the entire Vestry, e.g., copies of our bylaws and our committee structure (which needs to be revised). Emily noted that rather than have one 2½-hour meeting on Zoom a month, we're now having two 60- or 90-minute meetings monthly.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Treece, secretary