

Vestry Minutes April 16, 2020

Highlights of the one-hour special meeting:

*The Vestry praised Rev. Emily and the entire staff for the multiple online services during Holy Week.

*The Outreach Committee decided to give the Holy Week offering to the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan's Bishop's Fund, which has arranged to match 1:1 all donations towards feeding the hungry in the diocese. The committee also agreed to give from its own budget an amount equal to half the Holy Week offering to the Pope Francis Center.

*Vestry began discussing additional ways to keep members connected, and how best to reach out to those who are suffering during this crisis. We agreed to spend more time on this in future meetings.

Present: Emily Williams Guffey, Lisa Jones, Roger Basse, Betty Warner, Desmond Jones, Jim Treece, George Port, Howard Matthew, Carolyn Maher, Christine Galli, Denise Crenshaw, Chuck Atwater.

Excused/Absent: Phil Brown

Underlining indicates action items.

Emily opened the meeting with prayer at 6:07 p.m.

Update from Bishop/Diocese (Emily)

Nothing new from the Bishop on the ban on meeting or on how/when to resume regular services.

Emily will be working with the Bishop and Rev. Anthony Estes to finalize the agreement on his coming to CCD. He may take a week off to catch his breath between churches.

The minutes of the April 2 meeting were **approved**.

Communications and Connections (All)

Follow-up on Holy Week. Wide praise for the multiple services, both liturgically and in terms of the online production that made it feel like a "real," and intimate, service. Emily: Thank you very much for the feedback. It's a team effort and a creative enterprise. Kudos for the amazing job Katrina did. People were working very hard and quickly on Holy Week. This next Sunday will be more of a simple one, but then we'll give ourselves more time to work on future services. Q. How to determine who appears in the service as lector, etc.? A. Emily has been reaching out to individuals. She thinks about who the scheduled lectors and liturgical ministers are, as well as who might enjoy the opportunity to submit a video. She also thinks about representation. She wants to have participants from both 8:15 and 10:30 congregations, and a cross-section of our members so that a first-time online visitor gets a sense of our diversity. A few people declined the invitation because it was stressful to figure out the video so quickly; having more time for preparation in the future may mitigate that. Christine: First time my daughter participated in a service since she graduated from high school in 2006.

Continued sermons, weekly e-mails, etc. The church now is sending out at least two, often three, emails a week. Treece to start adding brief updates from ministry teams, etc., to the newsletter, to keep members apprised of the continued life of the church.

New ideas - what are we hearing/what more can we do? Jim shared three ideas he had heard in phone calls with members: ask members to keep a journal during the pandemic, or ask those who already are journaling, for entries that could go into a time capsule as part of our 175th anniversary observances; help people find prayer partners if they want them; organize some form of small-group, in-home Christ Church Supper Clubs. Denise: Our Shepherd team (led by Mary Herring) had a cocktail party Friday night. Roger: Other shepherds are staying in contact. Josephine calls her flock about once a day. This weekend, Roger will ask shepherds to be in touch with their flock every two weeks. He also will request that they ask their flock members to describe, in one word, "How are you doing during the crisis?" He will pass along those words to Sarah and Emily for review, to help Emily know who needs extra follow-up. can review and see, "Oh, this person says it's a disaster. Need to follow up." Chuck: We have the sick/shut-in list in the bulletin. Is there a way to reach out to those who are more severely suffering? Send them a note? Jim: While respecting privacy, is there a way to give more info about a name that pops up on the list? After all, when that happens in normal times, members in the pews ask each other or Emily about a new name on the list. Emily: Until or unless something more formal is fleshed out, reaching out individually to say "I'm thinking about you" makes sense. Lisa: We'll gather ideas and have more of a discussion next week at our regular monthly Vestry meeting.

Other Brief Updates or Required Actions (All)

Buildings and Grounds. Desmond: Things are still closed, but we need to be ready to move when we can get into the building. Lisa will get the contract to Quinn Evans tomorrow. She'll also track down the camera/Computer Guy contract, and take care of that. Upon receipt of the contracts, Quinn Evans and Ram can start working virtually, discussing with each other preparations and procedures for work on the Bell Tower. We've also received the first invoice from RAM. It's possible that, with proper Covid-19 precautions, work could begin even during the stay-at-home period. Desmond: Best thing to do is to get Quinn Evans' Angela on the task, and she'll be able to advise what can and cannot be done at this stage.

Reading Camp. Meeting has been put off until May 7 because not sure what the summer will look like. Still looking for a coordinator.

Finance and Payment Protection Program Application. Christine: The Finance Committee is still gathering information necessary if in fact we have the ability to apply for a PPP loan through Comerica, our bank. The program has run out of funds, but more are expected to be allocated. Trying to be poised for it, but she shared several figures on how overwhelmed banks are in trying to process applications. Christine and Jane Forbes working with Mark Miliotto at the diocese. It's a lot of paperwork, including payroll documentation, etc. Sarah also is getting Christine all the info for April and March, so Christine can enter it and produce finance statements next week.

George: Any idea on how collections are going? Christine: I'll know more next week, after hearing from Sarah. Emily: Over Easter Sunday, about \$1200 came in over PayPal. Don't know if Sarah has received the mail yet, with additional checks. Christine: March statement from the bank showed \$37K came in. January was \$50K, but January usually sees a higher-than-average amount.

Denise: Outreach voted to split the Easter offering equally between the Pope Francis Center and Crossroads, and then voted to give to Gleaners from its own budget, so that all three organizations will receive the same amount. [Note: After the Vestry meeting, the Outreach committee reconvened and decided to give the Holy Week offering to the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan's Bishop's Fund, which will match 1:1 all donations towards feeding the hungry in the

diocese. The committee also agreed to give from its own budget an amount equal to half the Holy Week offering to the Pope Francis Center.]

Next Full Vestry Meeting scheduled for Thursday April 23, 6-8. Regular meeting with reports. The meeting adjourned at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Treece, secretary