

Saint Boniface Episcopal Church May 2017 Vestry Minutes

Date: May 18, 2017

Approved June 15, 2017

Vestry Members Present: Wayne Farrell (Priest-in-Charge), Suzanne Barksdale (Sr. Warden), Vince Brennan (Jr. Warden), Jon Gordon (Treasurer), Doriel Boyce, Joanne Heiland, Reg Irvine, Rooney Mereness, Paul Neuhauser, Charlie Pettengill, Judy Stickler (Acting Clerk).

Vestry Members, Informed Absence: Mary Ivey, Suzanne Gregory

Call to Order: The Priest-in-Charge called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Minutes: A **motion** was made, seconded and voted upon favorably that the minutes of the vestry meeting held on April 20, 2017 be approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: The Financial Report was reviewed and discussed. A **motion** was made, seconded and approved to accept the Financial Report.

Sr. Warden's Report: Suzanne reported that our Mutual Ministry Reviews had all been submitted, and have been reviewed by Eric Cooter, who has completed the first draft of his report. He will be meeting with Suzanne and Wayne to share his report with them sometime soon after May 30th. The goal, if possible, is for the final report to be presented to the full Vestry at its meeting on June 15th.

Suzanne reminded us of the discussion at the Vestry Retreat regarding engaging new members. We were told that we are doing well in welcoming new and prospective members. She said that she intends for us to do even better...there will be a second Welcome table set up in the Parish Hall during coffee hour after the service and a Vestry Listening Post where new members or potential new members can ask and Vestry members can answer questions. It was suggested that the Leader of any Ministry that provides a Minute on Ministry during the service also be available to meet and engage interested existing, new or potential members.

Jr. Warden's Report: Vince shared the spreadsheets that he has developed for a capital planning budget. He has identified our capital assets and plans to secure financial estimates for maintaining/replacing them at the end of their projected/expected useful life. The plan will be looking forward for five or six years, and will serve as a guide for capital budgeting.

New Business: None

Priest-in-Charge Report:

- Wayne continues to see evidence of recovery at St. Boniface. The recent confirmations of 3 adults and 2 young people from St. Boniface were the first after a three year gap.
- The Bishop of Cuba will be visiting three parishes in the Diocese of Southwest Florida this summer. St. Boniface has been selected as one of the parishes she will visit. She will be with us some time in August.
- James sold his house, and has purchased a home in Palmer Ranch.
- Jonathan has listed his home in Naples for sale, and is moving in to his office at St. Boniface. He will be starting as Curate on June 1st, will preach on June 4th (Pentecost), and his ordination will be sometime between June 1st and July 13th. July 5th is St. Boniface Day.

- The youth mission trip to Busby, Montana will be held July 23 to July 29.
- Another retired priest and his wife have joined St. Boniface Church, we welcome Rev. Michael and Rita Piovane.
- Wayne will be moving Announcements to the end of the worship service in order not to interrupt the flow of the Liturgy. Perhaps also the Blessings of those celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries and those traveling north.
- Lisa has been out for a month, and Wayne expects that she will be out an additional two weeks. She is working part time from home.
- Wayne will be taking some vacation time while his daughter is home.

GROUP EXERCISE:

Wayne asked us to make two columns on a sheet of paper. For the left hand column he asked us to write where we sensed God's presence in the life of our parish today. The responses were:

- during the worship service, especially communion
- confirmation classes
- worship music, congregational singing
- funeral liturgies
- during the passing of the peace
- small groups, including Adult ed (book group), Art group, MOB, Dream Group, SURE, Peace and Justice, Vestry, Family Promise, Brady Chapter witnessing
- outreach, fellowship events (Food Bank, Rise Against Hunger)
- God's presence is experienced in bringing us new members
- intentional inclusivity
- Eucharistic visiting
- joy, laughter, kindness, generosity of parishioners
- personal connections, friendships
- quiet time in holy space
- Wednesday evening fellowship
- new leadership (James, Jonathan)
- healing mission
- walking into church after the service - people are joyous and uplifted
- serving at altar
- ministry of pre-school

Wayne also asked us to record in the right hand column what we think God is calling us to be in the future. The responses were:

- increasing fellowship gatherings

- embracing some of the ideas of the Emergence Church - more open, less formal, inclusive, diversified
- developing ways to reach out to and attract the unchurched
- continuing/expanding outreach programs
- being more of a presence in the community (SURE) and building a justice network
- strengthening ties between current members and establishing strong ties with new members
- evangelizing
- letting it be known that we are a church for all ages - working to attract families and children
- participating in ecumenical outreach, through partnership with Lutherans, developing partnership with Methodists as well as with other Christian denominations, Jewish Temples, Muslim Mosque, etc.
- being a change agent for the community
- offering educational programs/classes
- exporting our values and strengths to other Episcopal churches in the Diocese (i.e. providing formation opportunities by hiring and developing curates)
- the Holy Spirit had been working as we have been developing a vision for St. Boniface. At this point in time we see St. Boniface becoming a Center for Christian spirituality. Pillars of this vision include: worship; meditation/contemplative prayer; healing; spiritual direction; outreach and service; music and the arts.
- At the end of the exercise the question of whether we are planted in the wrong place, taking climate change into account, the issues with bridge access, and the demographics of Siesta Key versus the mainland was raised. We might want to think about that for the long term.

The exercise was followed by **Compline**.

Adjournment: 7:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Judy Stickler, Acting Clerk