

St. Boniface Episcopal Church
April 20, 2023 Vestry Meeting Minutes Approved May 18, 2023

Evening Prayer

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.

Roll Call

Vestry Members Present - Larry Patton (Senior Warden), Randy Thomas (Junior Warden via zoom), Justin Miller, Gino Fellin (Zoom), Zerbe Sodervick, Phil Baker, Marjorie Floyd, Bob Woody, Rita Valenti-Piovani (Zoom), Kay Goodman

Vestry Members Absent - Holley Schroeder, Donna Conyers

Other Attendees - Wayne Farrell (Rector), Nikki Seger (Asst. Rector), Joe Master (Director of Business and Finance), Suzanne Barksdale (Treasurer), Dr. James Guyer (Organist/Choirmaster), David Eichlin Secretary

Organist/Choirmaster report - James gave an overview of a visioning budget for the Friends of Music for 2023-2024. He explained how the guest artists enhance the different types of services offered at St. Boniface. There are presently 6 paid singers in the choir and he would like to add a 7th if the funds are available. In order to keep the quality of music up to the high standards the church has had, it is necessary to have paid singers. James reviewed the budget he envisions and stated that it is a work in progress. He also reported on the condition of the organ and what will need to be done in the near future. There are a number of problems, but so far he has been able to work around those issues so that the organ sounds as good as it does. Some work was done in January by a well known organist and it was recommended that he get a written report with details as to what needs to be done.

Consent Agenda - *The following reports to be accepted/approved in a single motion, except those requested to be pulled out.*

Strategic Plan Coordinator report - With each of the three committees continuing in their initial developments and planning, a reminder of a couple of items: First, we have a "Strategic Plan Tracking Sheet", located at Google Drive > Strategic Plan > Strategic Plan Documents. It includes each milestone our committees should be planning towards. I highly suggest we use it as a guide for our committees as we plan the coming months. If there are milestones that need to be adapted, added, or potentially removed, we should have those discussions. I recommend monthly committees dedicate a part of each meeting to review the Tracking Sheet and update accordingly.

Second, please use the Google Drive Strategic Plan folders as repositories of information. This way, as we add/subtract members over the coming months/years, there's easy access for us all to these documents. Each committee has its own folder and the committee roster, meeting minutes, and other resources can easily be added.

CONGREGATIONAL TEAM BUILDING MEETING SUMMARY We had an extended discussion on our mission to develop leadership for service within our parish family as well as without. We unanimously concluded that the Committee should undertake to develop leadership for service to our parish family, especially in times of illness and loss.

Larry, on behalf of the Committee, is to confer with clergy regarding our proposal to call all existing ministries, as listed each week in the Service Bulletin, to come together to discuss if and how the needs of their members are ministered to in times of illness and loss. The purpose of such a conference is to learn the support available to parishioners, other than through clergy visitation and ministry, to inform our future efforts.

The Committee has taken the lead in sponsoring a Boniface "watch party" for the watching the livestream of "Not in Our Town" from Temple Beth Israel, Longboat Key, on Monday, April 24. This is in support of our goal of Becoming Informed of the Ways in which We Can Serve. Because the program deals with how to respond to instances of hate in our community, our sister Strategic Planning Committees, Hospitality and Caring for Youths and Families have joined us.

We continue to pray for our Committee members, Kay Goodman and Prill Nugent, wishing them a speedy recovery and return to us! They and their contributions are sorely missed!

CARING FOR YOUTHS AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Caring for Youth and Families Committee last met on March 19th . Minutes from that meeting were submitted to the Vestry in March.

Our first program was March 26th – Becky McDonough, Executive Director of ALSO Youth was the speaker. The program was well received with 65 people in attendance. The committee meets again on April 23rd and will debrief on the ALSO program and discuss future programs. We are in discussion with Becky McDonough to conduct a diversity workshop in late May or June.

Hospitality Committee Report - May 12 will be the kick off announcement of the Foyers 2.0 which will start in the fall. It will take place in the community center with a format similar to the "Sipping at Sunset" event. Everyone will be invited to participate and groups will be randomly chosen. The committee has also been in dialogue with the

coffee hour ministry to enhance it to celebrate anniversaries and anniversaries, but since there is no extra money at this time it was tabled until a later date. However, the H&W will assist the ministry in whatever way it can to support their efforts. The group is looking at having new permanent name tags made and also discussed ways to welcome and engage new members in the different church ministries.

Senior Warden Report - Greetings, my friends and compatriots in servant ministry for Boniface! I first want to renew my invitation to you to attend our Boniface “watch party” on April 24 to view the live stream of “Not in Our Town” from Temple Beth Israel, Longboat Key. Hate is altogether too common in our society these days and our Mission and Vision call Boniface and each of us to stand against hate. If we are to be good leaders, we best lead by our example and actions, not just by our words.

Thanks and congratulations to each of you who participated in our Rise Against Hunger meal packing event. The results were summarized in the Rector’s Report, but I want to emphasize the joy and good fellowship which took place for over 70 parishioners in their investment of time, talent, and resources in service to others. It was grand to see Boniface working together again!

A note of thanks to the Executive Committee, Rector Wayne, Suzanne Barksdale, our faithful and efficient Treasurer, Joe Master, our Business Manager and Randy Thomas, our Junior Warden exemplary. The time expended each month is to the benefit of our Vestry meetings in bringing matters requiring Vestry attention in for a better focused presentation and discussion. Two good examples are to be brought before you in our April meeting: the challenges of maintenance and repair of our 28 campus air-conditioning units, on which the Junior Warden will report and the proposed formation of a Standing Committee for Buildings and Grounds on which I will report.

It is expected that each member of the Vestry will serve as best they can, of their time, talent, and treasure. We will have continuing discussions on formation and use of Standing Committees to enhance and improve our decision-making, planning, and execution. There are one or more places for each of us to serve, just as each of us is called to serve on one of the three Strategic Planning committees. It is our job to see that the Strategic Plan is successfully implemented and even more successful in its execution. If we do that job, the future is bright!

Junior Warden Report - Randy provided an updated list of open projects that are still pending due to getting the necessary information and expenses related to completing the projects. Those areas include issues related to Hurricane Ian, weather mitigation, the Parish Hall, lighting in the nave, drainage, repairs to the Columbarium, and the a/c in the main church. A procedure is being developed to track and anticipate issues impacting the buildings and grounds. A more long-term plan is needed to determine future building and grounds needs. The Parish Hall project is still awaiting a scope of

work proposal from the architect. An estimate is needed on replacing the damaged parquet sections and sanding and sealing an area in the Chapel. An estimate is also needed for the altar area. Randy is in the process of reviewing and updating the church's hurricane response plan before the hurricane season starts on June 1. He also thanked Bob Gregory for assisting him with some of the task such as contacting vendors and giving input on what needs to be done around the church facility.

Treasurer Report - Our bank account at BMO Harris reflects an unrealized gain of \$27k in the month of March and shows our planned scheduled distribution of \$17,511.22 used to support operating expenses. Additionally, the Vestry-approved withdrawal for capital expenditures of \$41k is reflected. The Income Statement shows pledge income at 38.42% and plate and donor "no pledge" continue to be exceptional. Expenses were over budget by \$1,000 month to date; however year to date we are under budget by 2.78%. Office Expense and Publications are over budget due to expenses associated with supplies for bulk mailings. Building Operations and Maintenance are over budget due to fire extinguisher/kitchen system inspection and replacement of the water heater under the sink in the Office kitchen.

Rector Report - 937 people attended the 12 Holy Week services from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday. Attendance was up for most services compared to 2022. Easter Day attendance was slightly down due to the weather. I am grateful for the hard work of our staff and the many, many parishioners including choir, readers, ushers and greeters, altar guild, and others who made our services so meaningful and splendid. God was praised!

We met our budgeted goal for the special Easter offering of \$7000.

Maximus Ralli (a baby boy) was baptized at the Easter Vigil. Plus, Fr. Hamblin baptized a child while he was out of state that will be recorded in our parish register. This brings to three the number of children baptized in the first four months of 2023. This is way ahead of recent years and another sign of post COVID recovery.

Six funerals have been held since the last Vestry meeting. More are scheduled.

A group of our retired clergy made a gift of a new cope (cost \$2,157.12) to the parish, tailored to fit Nikki Seger. It was first used at the Easter Vigil, then twice on Easter Day. I thanked them.

Nikki and I attended the Diocesan Chrism Mass on Tuesday of Holy Week (4/4) at St. Mark's in Venice. Bishop Scharf celebrated, preached, and hosted the clergy for lunch. We received our fresh supply of Holy Oils for the year.

Our two Hunger Events on March 18 were successful: First, we packed 16,000 meals that Rise Against Hunger shipped to Haiti and the excess financial donations went to RAH's school feeding project in Zimbabwe. Next, BEST hosted more than 20 folks who

toured the ECHO Farms facility in Ft. Myers. ECHO develops sustainable farming practices that help hungry people successfully grow their own food around the world. Sunday March 19 and 26, the service bulletins were formatted as Instructed Eucharists, with commentary about the details of the liturgy. 3/19 focused on The Liturgy of the Word. 3/26 focused on the Liturgy of the Table. A goal is to blend these commentaries into one document to assist first-time non-Episcopal visitors with worship.

On Sunday March 26, sixty-five parishioners attended the information meeting about ALSO Out after the 10 am service. This program lines up with our Strategic Plan and was organized by the Youth and Marginalized Family Support Target Workgroup.

Later at 6 pm on 3/26, the choir presented the Duruflé Requiem. It was splendid and reflected much hard work in preparation. Jeremy Fillsell, long-time friend of St. Boniface and current organist/choirmaster at St. Thomas Episcopal Church Fifth Ave in New York City, offered a recital prior and accompanied the choir.

On 4/14 and 4/15, The Booker High School Music Program held their Spring Concert in the Church (their auditorium is under renovation.) Six different groups; choirs, orchestra, and bands, performed.

Akio Miller is part of the Diocesan Delegation to the National Episcopal Youth Event this summer.

Members of our choir are joining the choir from the Episcopal Cathedral in Orlando traveling to England this summer. Our choristers are raising funds by working at beach parking.

Finally, I underwent my annual medical physical examination on March 24 (including blood work.) My doctor said, "you can report to your wife and your Board that you are healthy."

A motion was made to accept/approve all of the reports, seconded and approved.

Old Business - None

New Business

Vestry Nomination and Election Report - Bob Woody was nominated to fulfill the term left vacant when Prill Nuguent resigned for family issues. A motion was made to accept the nomination and approved.

Establishment of a Building and Grounds Standing Committee - Randy proposed the establishment of a Building and Grounds Committee to ensure that St Boniface's buildings and grounds are suited, equipped, and satisfactory for the use, growth, and development of the church's worship, mission, ministry, and outreach programs as defined by its Mission and Vision Statements.

Responsibilities:

Monitor the condition of St Boniface's buildings and grounds monthly and advise the Junior Warden, Executive Committee, and Vestry of issues regarding maintenance, repair, refurbishment, or replacement.

Assist the Junior Warden in developing guidelines, protocols, and procedures for maintenance, repair, refurbishment, or replacement contracts and vendor selections and obtaining, monitoring, and executing such contracts and selections.

Assist the Junior Warden, Rector, and staff in developing and maintaining routine/periodic maintenance and schedules for all St Boniface buildings, assets, equipment, and campus.

Development of the Capital Improvement budget.

Monitor, under the guidance and supervision of the Junior Warden, all on-going contracts impacting buildings and grounds.

Development of an annual report addressing long-term needs with respect to maintaining the buildings and grounds.

Maintaining and publishing to the Executive Committee, Vestry, and Budget Committees depreciation schedules for the assets, buildings and grounds of St Boniface.

Committee Membership:

The committee shall consist of 5 members. It shall include the Junior Warden, a Vestry member and 3 individuals selected from the congregation on the advice and consent of the Rector, Junior Warden and Vestry member of the committee.

The 3 members selected from the congregation should be selected for their experience and expertise in project management, construction, engineering or maintenance of grounds and/or facilities.

Members will serve a term of 3 years which can be renewed.

Ex Officio members shall be the Business Manager and Sexton, and, when and as required, Rector, Senior Warden, and Treasurer.

A motion was made to accept the proposal and approved.

Reisinger Inquiry - There has been an inquiry from a couple (not members of the church) to purchase one of the 4 lots which the church owns across from the church campus. After discussing the pros and cons of selling a lot, it was recommended that Wayne would explore it further to see what the couple might be willing to pay with no obligation on the church's part that it would sell the lot.

Website Status Update - Development of the new website is well underway and the target date for having it completely up and running is June. The estimated cost is under \$3500.

Assistant Rector Report - Here are the highlights relating to my work since our March vestry meeting:

Most work in the past month has been dominated by pastoral care, funerals, Holy Week and Easter – and I am exhausted.

Holy Week and Easter are my favorite liturgical times of the year. I thoroughly enjoyed the week and felt spiritually nourished. I am very grateful for the support and engagement of my colleague Wayne, the entire staff and key ministries like vested ministers, altar guild, ushers and choir/musicians.

I did the baptismal preparation for the Ralli baptism.

I led the Bay Village Eucharist in April.

Attended a Commission on Ministry (COM) meeting and also met with a discerner for whom I am a liaison.

I continue to mentor the Rev Suzanne Hood (Associate Rector, Christ Church, New Bern, NC) under the Virginia Theological Seminary Mentoring program.

I was the guest celebrant and preacher at Dayspring on April 5 – the Bishop, his staff, the Dayspring staff and some community members were in attendance.

I have been asked to facilitate a workshop for the diocesan Water & the Word conference in May on transformational mission.

On a personal note, the closing on our new home is scheduled for April 24. Jennifer is scheduled for a total hip replacement on May 1. And, like Wayne, I have had a physical and have a clean bill of health.

A motion was made to accept the report, seconded and approved.

Acceptance of minutes of March 18, 2023 Vestry Meeting - There was one amendment to the minutes. The cost needed to fund the ad for Sarasota Out was \$2000, not \$1000. A motion was then made to accept the minutes as amended, seconded and approved.

Vestry minute-for-ministry topics and speaker - Bob Woody will present the following topics to the congregation on Sunday, April 23.

New vestry member

Establishment of a Building and Grounds Standing Committee

Easter Attendance

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Calendar Items:

- **Creation Sunday Speaker – Sunday, April 23, 11:30 am Community Center**
- **Key Chorale concert – Sunday, April 23, 5:00 pm**
- **SPC “watch party” – Monday, April 24, 6:30 pm**
- **John Cooper funeral – Friday, April 28, 3:00 pm**
- **G & O speaker - Sunday, April 30, 11:30 am Community Center**
- **Los Trabas concert – Sunday, April 30, 6:00 pm**
- **Evensong - Sunday, May 7, 5:00 pm**
- **Next vestry meeting – Thursday, May 18, 6:00 pm**