

St. Boniface Episcopal Church
January 24, 2021 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
Approved February 18, 2021

In accordance with the canon law of the Diocese of Southwest Florida and the by-laws of St. Boniface Church, the parish meeting, having been announced in the Church newsletter, Sunday leaflets, and from the pulpit, was held at 11:15 a.m. Sunday, January 24, 2021, in the Church.

NOTE: As the COVID-19 epidemic continues during this time, the meeting was video-streamed, as well as on a Zoom platform for those utilizing electronic voting. Reports were posted online.

Opening Prayer

Call to Order The meeting was called to order by the Rector, Wayne Farrell

Leadership Recognition

- Recognition of out-going vestry members Sandy Wilbur, Ann Hardcastle, Tom Krueger, and Phil Baker, as well as Suzanne Gregory serving as Sr. Warden, Rooney Mereness as Jr. Warden, and Phil Baker as Treasurer.

Sr. Warden Report Suzanne Gregory

- Despite the pandemic during 2020, St. Boniface Church never closed. The attention of all leadership was turned to safety, maintaining worship, connection, learning, and fellowship. All levels stepped up – including small group leaders, volunteers, the Vestry, dedicated staff, and our rector, associate rector, and choirmaster.
- Encourage all to review the reports online for more detail – on outreach and parish growth, as well as the reports from our Junior Warden, Rooney Mereness, and our Treasurer, Phil Baker
- St. Boniface Church financially healthy entering into 2021, and the campus maintained while keeping costs down
- Accomplishments for the year:
 - kept the staff fully employed
 - Vestry challenged the parish to match a \$5,000 gift to All Faiths Food Bank as deep hunger gripped our community. At the end of this challenge, more than \$35,000 was donated
 - St. Nicholas Fair committee raised more than \$4,000 to local charities
 - Engagement was solid with our online presence through our streamed worship services, Facebook, and Zoom gatherings. Thanks to donations, a new video camera system was purchased.
 - Air purifiers were purchased for the offices and church
 - A comprehensive Safety Plan was developed, outlining procedures for church incidents, and hurricane preparedness, and helping determine safe seating. Thanks to our Safety Committee.
 - Computer technology on the campus was updated
 - The Stewardship Campaign this year was *Faith Filled Generosity*, and the committee encouraged us “With joyful hope in uncertain times, let us give for what can be.” And pledges are currently at 91% of our \$833,000 goal.

- Thanks to St. Boniface community, “for your faith and support during a year that had much anxiety, stress, and sadness. We can reflect back, as long as we keep moving forward and continue in the words of our mission statement – to continue in Christ’s love to welcome, invite, and include all in worship, healing, teaching, fellowship, and service in our diverse, inclusive Christian community.”

Vestry Election

- The slate of names from the vestry nominating committee was presented
- Vestry nominations were invited from the floor, none were presented

A **motion** was made, seconded and accepted to close the nominations. Both voice and online voting confirmed the election of the slate. Vestry members of class of 2023 are Gino Fellin, Prill Nugent, Zerbe Sodervick and Randy Thomas.

Rector Report Wayne Farrell

- *Bishop Smith never closed the churches of the diocese, but so many things became different. We moved some furniture to enhance the visual experience over live stream. Yet even during times of minimal attendance, of not more than ten, we maintained our praise and worship to God with music and a singing choir.*
- *On Wednesday nights at 7:30, we gather in fellowship safely in our homes, as Quarantina concerts sooth us with the gift of music, magnifying God’s glory while also supporting the area’s best artists.*
- *Enhanced technology creates new ways for folks to join in both locally and from long distances. Worship and Bible study have grown in its attendance, now including folks connecting regularly from several states and Canada, Europe, as well as Sarasota.*
- *You stayed in touch with your neighbors with phone calls, texts, e-mails, and cards. We make pastoral care visits to the sick as we can within limits of safety and protocols. And through a special matching gift challenge at All Faiths Food Bank, your \$36,000 in donations became \$72,000 to feed hungry families in Sarasota. This, while keeping our budgeted commitment of another \$45,000 in grants to local organizations, leveraging our mission and ministry for Christ.*
- following the Episcopal Church’s curriculum “Becoming Beloved Community,” the Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle ministry was established
- Fr. Jonathan Evans continues coordinating efforts around refugees and immigration
- Continue our involvement and full financial commitment to the work of SURE; Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity.
- Future planning: *looking long range, developing a strategic plan asking for the Spirit’s guidance as to what God is calling us to do now that we have decided to stay in this beautiful place. Asking how we need to adjust our programs, facilities, and resources in order to get us there. Along the way we will be collecting feedback from all of our stakeholders, staff, ministry groups, and you, through something like a series of casual front porch conversations.*
- Appointed Suzanne Gregory as Sr. Warden, again, for this year
- *I am grateful for our small and very capable staff. They have been professional, creative and adaptive. I speak for all of them, grateful to you for our uninterrupted and full employment in 2020.*
- Presented this year’s Boniface Hero Award to the St. Boniface Community, parishioners, friends, clergy and staff

Adjournment: Closing prayer given by Rev. Wayne Farrell, meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Other published reports:

Jr. Warden Report Rooney Mereness

At St. Boniface Church, the primary function of the junior warden is to oversee the maintenance of the physical property and buildings. In a normal year, it means primarily air conditioners, roofs and keeping the outside appearance nice. However, 2020 brought new and different challenges to the St. Boniface campus. The year started fairly normally and we were able to install the new roof for the Community Center in January without incident. Then the pandemic hit, and all interfaces with vendors and contractors came to a halt.

During the year, we did replace three air conditioners: in the Healing Mission, Choir Gallery and Parish Hall. The exteriors of all buildings were power washed – what an improvement! In addition, we purchased three new video cameras and controlling equipment to use for video broadcasts, concerts and worship services. In the music department, the St. Boniface handbells were refurbished, as several needed handles and strikers. As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, air purifiers were purchased for each staff office, as well as two larger purifiers for the nave.

Looking to the future, we still have some large projects that have to be accomplished – finish replacing the roofs, solving the parking lot flooding problem, fixing the steeple leak, the parking lot re-sealing/repaving and interior rooms' sprucing up just to highlight a few of the tasks before us. We will try to complete these tasks as resources are available.

Treasurer Report Phil Baker

Despite enduring a deadly pandemic that has stalled economies all over the world, the parishioners of St. Boniface Church have once again proven to be wonderfully generous. For 2020, we achieved almost 95% of the anticipated total income we budgeted, for what we thought was going to be a normal year. Even though many parishioners enjoy our weekly services exclusively online, they also send the church their annual pledges on a regular basis. We received almost 96% of the pledged totals.

On the expense side, our clergy and church staff trimmed expenses where they could, such that we finished the year 6% below our budget. The staff and our junior warden were diligent in their efforts to properly maintain all of our various buildings and the 5+ acres of property on the campus. I am pleased to report that there is no major deferred maintenance on the campus, and St. Boniface contributed more than \$45,000 for external outreach grants in addition to other outreach aid.

In total for 2020, we ended the year with better than a balanced budget, as \$12,000 of restricted assets that were scheduled to be transferred were not needed. It is testimony to the skilled management of our church by the staff and vestry. We are blessed.

Investment Committee Report Ellyn McColgan

The Investment Committee oversees the management of the invested Funds of St. Boniface Church (the "Fund"). The Fund is managed by BMO Private Bank. The members of the Investment Committee are Ellyn McColgan, Chair, John Buszin, Peter Dadzis, Ronald Henderson and Jack Pendray.

The Fund began the 2020 year with \$3,163,661 and ended the year with \$3,382,591, an increase of 6.9%. The Endowment portion of the Fund began the year with \$2,109,387 and ended the year with \$2,428,509, an increase of 15.1%. The remainder of the Fund consists of Vestry-directed funds and other restricted accounts.

During 2020, the Endowment provided \$45,000 for outreach and \$33,000 to general expenses of the church, a total of \$78,000. There were no additions to the Fund in 2020.

Overall investment performance net of fees was 18.79%. Performance met or exceeded the benchmarks for each asset class. The committee expects to be able to meet the cash needs budgeted by the Vestry for 2021.

- **Parish Growth in 2020**
- **Where in the world is St. Boniface?**
- **Faith Filled Generosity list of pledged households (as of January 20, 2021)**
- **Boniface Cornerstone Society**

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Wolf, Clerk of the Vestry