

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting via Zoom
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
August 25, 2021

Present: Rich Connelly, Walter Jarrett, Emily Kleiber, Connell NeSmith, Robert Poole, Hart Roberts, Bob Smith, Lane Stewart, Katie Terrell, Jennifer Wells, Susan Wilson and Mary Moore

Absent: Jerry Sullivan, Fr. Robert Salamone

Rich called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Vestry Nominating Committee Update – Rich provided an update from the Vestry Nominating Committee. They have identified several promising candidates and expect to have a full slate for the Vestry's consideration at the September Vestry meeting. Rich encouraged current Vestry members to forward any potential candidates to him or other members of the committee.

Social Media Volunteers – Katie shared that she is looking for an intern that can assist with Emmanuel's social media platforms, including Realm, Facebook, and Instagram. She has reached out to Father Clayton for potential candidates from his campus ministry. She may also reach out to the Grady College at UGA for potential candidates. It would not be a huge time commitment but would provide some regularity of content. Katie also noted that Melissa has sent parish-wide invites to Realm. There was some discussion regarding the benefits of Realm to parishioners and the ways in which Realm is currently being used by Emmanuel.

Diocesan Annual Council – Rich announced that to date, he, Lane, and Susan have volunteered to attend the Annual Council. He asked for any others that are interested in attending to please let him know.

EEDS Update – Emily provided an update on the Day School. She noted that Father Robert met with teachers to announce the new director. The meeting went well and the teachers were excited and encouraged that the school doors were opening and a new director was in place. She reported that the first few weeks of school have gone well. There are still a few teacher openings but with assistants floating between classrooms, they are making it work. There was brief discussion regarding the best way to handle the increased sun and heat caused by tree removal on the playground. Emily has obtained a proposal for awnings. Walter proposed several less expensive alternatives to try this year, before making a commitment to awnings, including blinds, shades, or drapes. They may find that the sun and heat is welcome during the winter and these alternatives would provide year-round flexibility. This plan could be re-evaluated next year if the alternatives are not satisfactory. In other news, Emily shared a letter from Kellie Neil thanking the church, especially Martha and the Children's Ministry, for providing a great VBS experience for her children. In closing, Emily mentioned that she is working with Father Clayton to develop additional service opportunities for older children and youth to participate in this year.

Organ Update – Rich indicated that he believes the Vestry will get a presentation on the Organ Project next month.

Haiti Update – Bob Smith updated the Vestry on communications from Haiti. Fortunately, St. Etienne's was mostly spared from the earthquake but they are still unable to make their budget. They are requesting a \$750 increase per quarter. The Vestry discussed providing an additional \$750 for Q3, Q4

this year and then evaluating, before the end of this year, whether to increase the 2022 amount to accommodate this increase going forward. They agreed to make this an action item for tonight's meeting. It was suggested to request a financial report from the school by the end of 2021.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Committee Summaries and Questions – Walter noted that there are leakage issues over the youth area roof. The cost to repair and reflash the area will be approximately \$10,000. Connell shared that Parish Life is joining forces with Father Clayton and Martha to plan a “back to church” event on September 12. They are looking at lots of ideas right now and will be moving very quickly on planning.

Financial Review – Susan reviewed the financial report. She indicated we are still experiencing strong results with over \$1,000,000 cash on hand. We will be able to use restricted accounts for repairs if needed. Pledges were up in July and expenses were about as expected. The Thrift House continues to do very well. With regard to banking fees, Karen has received a proposal from a local bank that appears to be much more favorable than what we are currently paying. Rich will consult with our current bank before a final decision whether to change banks is made.

Junior Warden' Report – Lane noted that she knows a lot of people are looking forward to coming back to church and looking forward to the fall.

Senior Warden's Report – Rich remarked that we continue to welcome new families to Emmanuel and that Father Robert was encouraged with the growth of our church even during this time of Covid restrictions.

Rector's Report – There was no Rector's Report.

ACTION ITEMS

Bob Smith made the following motion: Provide an additional \$1,500 to the St. Etienne School in Haiti from available outreach funds to be distributed in two quarterly payments (Q3 & Q4) of \$750 each. The Vestry will evaluate a proposed increase of \$3,000 to the 2022 total support before the end of 2021.

The motion was seconded by Susan. The motion was approved.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Those present shared personal reflections, prayer requests, and other thoughts for the good of the order.

CLOSING DEVOTION

Hart shared the closing devotion, a reflection on how to hear the Holy Spirit in your life.

The meeting ended at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Minutes approved by: Rich Connelly, Walter Jarrett, Emily Kleiber, Connell NeSmith, Robert Poole, Hart Roberts, Bob Smith, Lane Stewart, Katie Terrell, Jennifer Wells, Susan Wilson

Abstained: Jerry Sullivan

Respectively submitted,
Mary Moore, Clerk of the Vestry