

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
November 14, 2018

Present: Katherine Alexander, Martha Babendreier, Bob Davis, Randy Forester, Bill Fox, Kerry Hogan, Kelli Neil, Fr. Robert Salamone, Terrie Seward, Carter Stanfield, Jan Wheeler, Mary Moore (Clerk)

Absent: Anna Alexander, Rob Hoyt

Father Robert called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

OPENING DEVOTION

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Father Robert shared that he was thankful to the outgoing Vestry class (Terrie, Rob, Bill and Randy) who celebrate their last meeting tonight and for their willingness to reflect on God's role in our lives as a community of faith. They have been faithful in keeping one another moving forward and in understanding that there are times when one needs to step aside for a bit while finding a new path. Father Robert noted he is grateful to all the continuing Vestry members as well. The freshmen have not been timid in working hard for Emmanuel. He appreciates the Vestry's openness in accepting new ministries and accepting new ways to do old ministries. The Vestry then had an opportunity to reflect on why they are thankful. The reflections included:

- Thankful for new learning experiences and for relationships with each other and with the Lord.
- Thankful for the experience of working with everyone on the Vestry and where the experience has led.
- Blessed to learn and understand what a huge operation Emmanuel is and to see how it works. It has been amazing to see what can happen.
- Thankful for the great opportunity to get to know the outgoing class and to and see how much they got done.
- Thankful for the opportunity to serve, the learning, and the friendship.
- Thankful for the gift of knowledge and all the gifts given.
- Thankful for this church and the opportunity to be involved in all that is going on.
- A special thanks to Terrie and all she's done as Senior Warden.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Stewardship Update – Bob gave an update on the stewardship campaign including a three-year comparison of giving to date. The campaign is going well so far compared to previous years and we appear to be on target. Bob will work with Karen to ensure that members who contribute using auto-payment are included in the pledge numbers, ideally by having them fill out a pledge card indicating their giving intention for the year. Emmanuel's goal is still one of year-round stewardship and to encourage people to think before pledging each year in order to make a conscious giving decision rather than simply pledging the same amount year after year by rote. Bob noted that there was a good group of attendees at the stewardship coffee on Nov.4th and they engaged in an interesting discussion. Bob reminded all that this year's goal is 200 pledging units, an increase over last year's number of realized pledging units of 185. In response to a question, Father Robert summarized that there are currently about 200 members in good standing that pledge or make recordable contributions and are actively involved in the life of Emmanuel, an additional 150-160 members who make non-recordable contributions via the collection plate and some number of inactive members. He reminded the Vestry that we need to continually ask the question: ***"What do you need to be more active?"***

175th Gala Update – Terrie gave an update on the Gala scheduled for November 15th. The staff at the Georgian have been great to work with and a wonderful evening is planned. Currently there are 160

attendees confirmed. There will be two check-in tables staffed by Jan, Kelli, Randy & Martha with help from Melissa, as well as a table set up to sell the ornaments for \$25/each. The food will be great and there will be beer & wine served. A string quartet from the Athens Symphony will perform between 7:15-7:45. The Silent Auction has many great items and a good variety of price points. Terrie asked that all take turns at the ornament table and be open to assisting at the Silent Auction checkout as there will be a quick flurry of activity about 8:30. Parking will be available at First American Bank as well in the ACC Courthouse parking deck and metered parking spaces on surface streets. Terrie noted that the planning committee has been outstanding, and it is expected that we should exceed our goal of netting \$10,000.

Vestry Retreat – Father Robert reminded the Vestry that the Vestry Retreat will take place on the 2nd weekend of advent (December 7-9) at Lake Logan Conference Center in North Carolina. He indicated that there is something to be said for spending time in fellowship and prayer as a way to aid in bonding and creating community among the Vestry. The thoughts and ideas that the Vestry shared and collected at the October Vestry meeting concerning what things at Emmanuel were going well and what could be improved, will form the foundation of the discussion at the retreat. Lake Logan is great facility to host such an event. Terrie will email the group soon to assist in forming carpools as needed. Terrie mentioned that dinner is at 6:30 and she needs to RSVP how many will be there for dinner as soon as possible.

Questions/Clarifications on Submitted Reports – There were no questions or clarifications.

Financial Report – Terrie gave a review of the financial reports and the Finance Committee report. She thanked Karen for pulling the financial reports together in time for tonight's meeting. Terrie noted that we are starting to catch up a little from the summer period when expenses often exceed revenues which is typical. We expect to have pledges catch up by the end of the year which is also typical. The Thrift House has had a good year with a year-to-date net income of \$13,815.65. There is an action item tonight to approve an increase in Day School tuition that should put us more in line with our competition. Phase 2 revenue collections are at 83%. There is still an outstanding \$200,000 pledge, half of which we anticipate will be paid in 2018 and the remaining half to be paid in 2019. The audit has been completed and was successful (clean.) It should be delivered to us by November 15th. Terrie recognized Katherine and Anna for their diligence in following our collection counting process the morning the auditor was there to observe. Our current auditor will perform one more audit before his contract is up next year.

Junior Warden's Report – There was no Junior Warden's report this month.

Senior Warden's Report – Terrie gave a brief update on the lawsuit. She noted that the plaintiffs submitted 1,100 documents which our attorney is reviewing. They have not, as of yet, found anything concerning and if that continues, the expectation is that we would file for Summary Judgement. Alternatively, depositions would be the next step if a Summary Judgement is not the best course of action. Terrie has offered to continue as intermediary if needed. She reminded all to turn in their annual reports to Melissa if they have not yet done so, as the deadline is fast approaching. She is looking for a date to hold a Vestry orientation for new Vestry members. She also gave a report on the Diocesan Annual Council which was held Friday, November 9th and Saturday, November 10th. The Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, celebrated the Eucharist Friday, and responded to questions during a Q & A session and attended the youth-led worship service on Saturday. His sermon is available on the Diocesan Facebook page. Other attendees from Emmanuel included the other delegates: Mary Moore, Phil Bettendorf, Anne Brightwell, and Brian Freese, as well as Father Robert, Father Samuel, Clayton Harrington, and Roger Lange who served as a Teller.

Rector's Report – Father Robert shared that we are getting close to having an organist and he will let us know when all is finalized.

ACTION ITEMS

Terrie made a motion to adopt the Day School tuition increase as put forth by the Finance Committee.

The Day School is recommending the following **monthly** increases in tuition for the 2019-2020 school year:

- 5-day classes to \$340 (\$15 increase). This equals \$20 per day.
- 4-day classes to \$280 (\$10 increase). This is equals \$20 per day.
- 3-day classes to \$235 (\$5 increase). This equals \$23 per day.
- 2-day classes of \$180 (no increase). This equals \$25 per day

The motion was seconded by Bill. The motion passed unanimously.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Prayers for Anna and others who were in a car accident prior to the Vestry meeting.
- Kelli will be really sad to miss the retreat.
- Bill noted “it’s been real and it’s been fun - it’s been real fun” on the occasion of his final Vestry meeting.
- Martha asked for prayers for her family.
- Terrie gave a final thank you to all, and most especially Father Robert. She is also sad to miss the retreat.

The meeting ended at 7:43 p.m.

Approved by: Katherine Alexander, Martha Babendreier, Bob Davis, Randy Forester, Bill Fox, Kerry Hogan, Rob Hoyt, Kelli Neil, Terrie Seward, Carter Stanfield, Jan Wheeler

Abstain: Anna Alexander

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Moore, Clerk of the Vestry