

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting  
Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
June 28, 2017

Present: Anna Alexander, LaBau Bryan, Randy Forrester, Bill Fox, Rob Hoyt, Brian Freese, Roger Lange, Crysty Odom, Terrie Seward, Brooke Stortz, Betty Varnadore (treasurer), Fr. Robert Salamone, Carter Stanfield, Jan Wheeler

Absent: Fr. Chris Cole, Brian Freese

Fr. Robert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked that the agenda be amended to accommodate a vote on the approval of the new vestry member prior to the devotion.

### **APPROVAL OF NEW VESTRY MEMBER**

Due to the vacancy left by Ellen Cowne after the May meeting, Randy Forrester was selected from a list of previously identified potential vestry candidates for consideration by the vestry to fill the remaining portion of Ellen's term. The committee included the Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and Vestry Member at Large Crysty Odom. Terrie shared with the vestry Randy's long time activity at Emmanuel and his enthusiastic willingness to serve on the vestry.

**Action Item:** Terrie moved that the vestry approve the appointment of Randy Forrester to time remaining on Ellen Cowne's term until the end of 2018.

Fr. Robert seconded and the motion passed unanimously. After the vote, Randy was invited to the vestry room and joined for the remainder of the meeting.

### **DEVOTION**

Jan shared her thoughts on the challenge of having quiet time due to the many technology related distractions that creep into our daily life. The Bible tells us to "be still", the difficulty of which is not a new problem. Jan read a reflection of Ansel, an 11<sup>th</sup> century theologian and Archbishop of Canterbury encouraging us to put aside our daily distractions and set aside time for God. Following the reading the vestry read a prayer together from St Augustine's Prayer Book.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Fr. Chris' Departure** – Fr. Chris will be leaving Emmanuel on July 9<sup>th</sup> and will be going to St. Mary's in Arlington, VA. Fr. Robert has been in contact with a potential candidate to replace him but there is no information to report on that as yet. There are many issues that are in play such as the status Emmanuel's role in the UGA Campus Ministry and subsequent diocesan support as well as parental support for the Emmanuel youth program. This led to a lengthy discussion regarding the diocesan campus ministry vision and the current status of the ongoing discussions with the ACC government and UGA regarding building plans and access for the Episcopal Student Center. Terrie noted that Parish Life is planning a reception for Fr. Chris after the 10:30 service on July 9<sup>th</sup> and an informal event at Little Kings in downtown Athens is planned for Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. Crysty asked vestry members to contribute food items for the July 9<sup>th</sup> reception and Brooke mentioned that monetary donations are being collection to present Chris with a parting gift.

**Haiti Discussion** – Fr. Robert noted that the vestry has spent the past two months considering our commitment to the Haiti mission and recapped the history to date as Emmanuel considers how best to serve the people of Limonade. Previous vestry discussions regarding creating scholarships for individual students raised questions about how to best allocate the money. Fr. Robert mentioned that as we continue to be involved in the school maybe someone would need to go and assess the situation as was done several years ago. Jan asked if ERD had projects ongoing in that area and Robert replied not at the present time. Bill mentioned that he recently met a graduate student doing field work near Limonade who may be willing to be our “ears and eyes” on the ground as he has done for other organizations. Carter recapped information from Chris Evans (MEMC) regarding the current status of the St. Etienne School: there are about 120-130 students attending ½ day of school, they range in age from 3 to 14 years old. Few are able to pay the \$250-\$350/year tuition and Emmanuel is the only source of income contributing \$24,000/year. Carter mentioned that not all the money needed to come from MEMC and perhaps a specific fundraiser could target the needs more directly. For example if it were explained that it took \$xxx/year to send one child to school, perhaps people would be willing to donate money to support that effort. Terrie mentioned that these ideas may change our approach to funding this mission in 2018 but reminded the vestry that our commitment for two more quarters of funding for 2017 would continue as planned. Robert reminded the vestry that there are many ways to express mission both local and foreign and that we need to consider how to act, and then act. He also mentioned that the Spanish service now averages over 35 and has had as many as 64 attending and posed the question of aligning a foreign mission to better learn the culture of those we serve locally, many of whom are from Mexico (and have been financially generous.)

**Common Room Discussion** – Fr. Robert began the discussion of what could be done to the Common Room (exclusive of the kitchen and without a major fundraiser) to create a more welcoming and pleasant space to enhance Emmanuel’s social life. Ideas such as new paint, replacing the carpet with vinyl/plank flooring or polished concrete and sound dampening tiles were discussed. While the kitchen will need to be addressed at some point the consensus was that there was a need for affordable cosmetic work to be done now. The suggestion was made to open up the patio doors and make that the main entry point for the common room – leading to better access and making the space lighter and brighter. Bill suggested that maybe there were resources in the church to help with interior design and that improving the space may make it able to better handle wedding receptions and other events. Rob suggested that the Facilities ministry may be able to assist by starting to get quotes for identified needed work. Fr. Robert indicated that there are surplus funds available to accomplish what is needed.

**Social Life Discussion** – Fr. Robert reminded the vestry that although the Holy Cookers have decided to disband, that does not mean that church social life has disbanded. The gathering of folks is the most important thing. He noted several very successful pot-luck events where the main dish was provided and participants contributed side dishes. Parish life could consider having pot-luck meals once a quarter. LaBau mentioned one advantage of pot-luck events was that people with special dietary needs can more easily participate by bringing a dish to share that meets their specific needs. LaBau asked Fr. Robert questions regarding the Music Ministry: Michael Brewer’s status as Choir Director and whether or not the concept of an organ is still on the table. Fr. Robert indicated he is enjoying both the choir and the music selections and Michael will remain as Choir Director. The concept of the organ is still on the table but there is nothing to discuss at this time. He noted that the grant writing period is coming up this fall and hopes to have something to discuss at some point in the future.

**Foster Family Support Team** – Jan updated the vestry on Emmanuel’s Foster Family Support Team (Lily Outz, Jane Robertson, Jan and several others). They are currently assisting a foster mother of three children (to whom she is also a great aunt). The team takes the family a meal once a week and helps with babysitting. The children attended VBS at Emmanuel and had a great time. The team would love to see more Emmanuelites trained for this ministry. Training is done through the group Care for Life and is available in the Atlanta area. Advocate Training is 1 ½ days long – and once trained Advocates act as the “go-between” between the family and the church. Another level of support is “Babysitter” which only required a background check. Currently, the only other large church involved in this ministry in Athens is St. Joseph’s.

**Questions/Clarifications on Submitted Reports** – Anna and Terrie clarified the status of the carpet for the Day School. As a reminder, this expense was not in day School budget for this school year, however Amy will have enough funds in her operating budget coupled with a \$1,000 donation made by a church member to replace the carpet in July (2017). Amy has done a good job managing expenses and will continue to do so through the end of her school year which is July 31<sup>st</sup>. At this point it does not look like she will need to use any of her surplus funds. Amy obtained three estimates and will use the company with the lowest bid. The cost is \$4,999 but she will not have the office carpet replaced at this time so the final bill will be slightly lower.

## **REPORTS**

**Financial Report** – Betty reviewed the *Finance/Administrative Committee Meeting Minutes for June 22, 2017*.

- Cash on Hand for the church at the end of May totaled \$1,182,309.29.
- Month ended with net operating surplus of \$4,694.32.
- Total church revenue for May was \$88,377.92 and \$427,580.78 YTD. There is an operating budget surplus of \$15,909.79 for the year. Pledges and recordable contributions are trending higher than budget. There is a \$15,000 misc. income entry from the sale of stock but at this point we are unable to determine who made the contribution and where it is supposed to be designated.
- Church expenses were \$83,683.60 for May and \$411,670.99 YTD, slightly higher to budget for both.
- The total collected for the Phase 2 building renovations is \$2,091,912.73. Fifty-seven percent of pledges have been received so far. As of April 30, 2017, \$730,000.00 has been used from the line of credit. Recommending that \$45,000 be transferred from the construction account to make a principal reduction on the line of credit.
- Thrift House revenues for May were \$5,900.65 and \$27,968.69 YTD, slightly ahead of budget for the month and year. Expenses for the month were \$4,779.48 and \$24,222.25 YTD.  
--Thrift House had a monthly surplus of \$1,121.17. The YTD surplus is \$3,746.44, about \$2,300 ahead of budget.
- Day School Cash on Hand was \$96,852.44. The month ended with a deficit of (\$18,322.76.)  
The Day School fiscal budget is August 1 to July 31.

The next meeting of the finance committee will be July 20, 2017, at 5:15 p.m.

**Junior Warden’s Report** – Roger reported that each of the worship ministries need more volunteers especially Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Altar Guild. He asked the vestry to invite/encourage others to serve and to consider serving themselves. He also mentioned that with Fr. Chris leaving there will be a need for 5 LEMs at the 10:30 service.

**Senior Warden's Report** – Terrie thanked all for their reports and expressed amazement at all that is going on around the parish. She encouraged everyone to include as much information as possible in the reports and be as thorough as possible. She also encouraged all to work with LaBau and the Communications ministry to help publicize all the wonderful work that is happening.

**Rector's Report** – Fr. Robert had nothing to add to what he had already shared previously in the meeting and asked if there were any questions for him. Bill asked about the parking policy after noticing random people parking in the lot on weekdays while they were at local businesses. Fr. Robert indicated that there is no interest in “selling” parking spots outside of what is currently done for UGA football parking.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Jan will be celebrating her mother's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday with family next week in her home town in southern Illinois.

Anna and family are looking forward to a quiet summer.

Carter thanked the vestry for attending to a number of MEMC related business items at the May meeting when he was not able to be present.

Bill stated that his life is “coming up roses” – Jonathan just graduated from college and Laura Leigh made the Dean's List following her first year in Law School.

Rob was glad to be back home after travelling to Vienna and Munich with students in a Study Abroad program – especially thankful that all were brought home safely.

Fr. Robert asked for prayers for Max Germain who was hit by a cement truck while riding his bike on the GA Tech campus June 23<sup>rd</sup>. At the time of the vestry meeting, Max was at Grady Hospital suffering from a massive brain injury.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Approved by: Anna Alexander, LaBau Bryan, Randy Forester, Bill Fox, Rob Hoyt, Roger Lange, Crysty Odom, Terrie Seward, Carter Stanfield, Brooke Stortz, Jan Wheeler

Abstained: Brian Freese

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Moore, Clerk of the Vestry