

## **St. Antony Episcopal Church**

Bishop's Committee

April 8, 2020

### **Meeting Minutes**

Due to COVID-19 virus restrictions, the Bishop's Committee meeting was held using Zoom internet technology. The meeting began at 6:32 pm. Attendees included Carol Whitney, Peter Stockwell, Blaine Morgan, Jim Foley, Kristen Robuck, the Rev. Bill Thaete, and the Rev. Bill Fulton.

Carolyn Sorrell has volunteered to be the scribe for this and upcoming meetings.

Fr. Bill Fulton opened the meeting with a prayer for guidance.

A Bible study was lead by Fr. Bill, using 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20, 3:1-10.

It was moved, seconded and passed that we accept the minutes from the March BC meeting.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Jim Foley gave his financial report, a written copy of which has been made available to the BC. He added that although St. Antony is behind YTD, we are comfortably within our budget through the month of March.

Following a description of the proposed Payroll Protection Plan authorized by congress as part of the COVID-19 relief for small businesses and non-profits, it was moved, seconded and past that we accept the proposal as described.

Mr. Foley's description of the plan explained that as a mission church we are under the administration of the Diocese for the distribution of any funds allotted to St. Antony's, based on our monthly payroll budget, which has been provided to the Diocese. He then cautioned that the final distributions will be based on what is actually left over after the small businesses have been payed their qualified share of the funds.

Peter Stockwell asked about our ability to keep up with our mortgage payments to Timberlake bank in the event of a budget shortfall. Mr. Foley reassured us that we are in good shape to keep up with the payments and should an unforeseen shortfall occur, we are protected by signature from the Diocese.

Mr. Foley also has set up 'on-line giving' with Vanco, where donations to the church can easily be made either by phone, texts or computer. Instructions on using these methods of donation are being provided to the congregation. He also explained that Vanco does provides private individual statements for donations on line. For the obvious convenience of their services we are paying \$5 a month. However 2 months of the charge will be waved due to COVID-19.

Deacon Bill Thaete suggested that we set up a method of letting the congregation know the funds

received and blessed at the live streamed Sunday services. This idea was well received and will be looked into by the vicar.

Carol Whitney moved to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Kristen Robuck and the motion was passed.

### **Old Business**

The Vicar asked for responses to the telephone tree set up. Very positive responses were offered such as enjoyable conversations where new and renewed friendships are being established. It is both helpful to the caller as well as those receiving the calls in terms of pleasant conversation amid difficult times. Some folks who are often unable to attend services regularly seemed to appreciate the feeling of being included as members of the St. Antony's community. It is hoped that the benefits of these calls may last far beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are other benefits from St. Antony's virtual outreach which include not only the two Sunday morning services, but also the weekly Zoomed Bible studies and the live streamed Wednesday evening prayers with the vicar. The success of these virtual gatherings has been inclusion of many more people outside of our usual attending participants, which could be an indication of the beginning of a new way in which we can 'Gather, Grow and Go.'

### **Reports from Commission and Wardens**

Pastoral Care is being done successfully through the organized telephone tree, even though not all returning reports have been received regularly. The prayer list for Sunday services has been appropriately kept up to date.

Blaine Morgan reported that Outreach Work has been put on hold in order to give people a chance to adjust to their individual needs and restrictions brought on by the pandemic. Further planning for gifts and spending must therefore be held until we can know where we stand financially.

Jim Foley suggested that the BC will need to keep the congregation aware of what the church is doing to keep 'the flock together' throughout the COVID-19 restrictions. He suggests this reporting be done on line and through the Newsletter.

Deacon Bill reported that 'Believe Out Loud' is on hold until there is opportunity for the congregation to hear a sermon describing the program, with a followup of face-to-face discussions between our congregants during times such as coffee hour to help individual's discernment regarding the issue.

Blaine Morgan asked about leaks found in the irrigation systems on two sides of the church property. The irrigation systems have been turned off, however the plants still appear healthy. This will need to be considered with resolutions made as needed.

As there was no further Old or New Business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.