

St. Antony Episcopal Church
Bishop's Committee
August 13, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Rev. Bill Fulton opened the meeting with a prayer.

A Bible study on Philippians 3:12-16 was led by Fr. Bill and the business part of the meeting began at 6:36 pm via Zoom.

Those in attendance were Blaine Morgan, Vicar Bill Fulton, Carol Whitney, Deacon Bill Thaete, Peter Stockwell, David Wilkinson, Jim Foley, and Carolyn Sorrell

Carol Whitney moved to approve the July minutes, David Wilkinson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Foley reported that the plate contributions were down as compared to this time last year and the PPP grant money has not been received leaving our monthly budget in the red by \$1,765. However we are still within our yearly budget by \$10,659 thanks in part to receipt of the first PPP allocation. A copy of Mr. Foley's report has been provided to the BC.

Peter Stockwell moved that the treasurer's report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Carol Whitney and passed unanimously.

A discussion was held regarding the condition of the kitchen appliances in the rental house. They are all quite old and we have been advised to replace the refrigerator which is leaking and in need of new parts that are no longer available. David Sorrell entered the meeting and reported quotes he has received from Albert Lea Appliances, ranging from \$1200 to \$1800, not counting delivery and installation. He also reported on repairs needed to the stove and dishwasher.

Mr. Foley reports that there is currently \$4200 in the rental house account that may be used for the installation, repair work and a new refrigerator.

David Wilkinson motioned that we spend up to \$2,500 for the refrigerator and the other appliance repairs. This motion was seconded by Peter Stockwell and passed unanimously.

Mr. Sorrell reports that the renter's son wants to help on the property so he will enlist his aid. He called for any ongoing ideas or suggestions to be sent to him. It will be a while before we will reopen, though.

Old Business

Updates to reopening plans:

Deacon Bill Thaite reported that he had passed our reopening plans to Rev. Craig Vocolka to be used as a guide for Trinity Church.

Deacon Bill then reported plans to place floor markers on the floor of the nave, along with

chairs set up so that we can begin to get a better idea about placement of people and the new live streaming equipment.

Vicar Bill mentioned a letter from the diocesan chancellor regarding what to do about persons who refuse to wear masks. Deacon Bill said that our reopening plans state that persons unable to wear a mask may be seated in the cry room. For others who refuse to wear a mask our policy will be to end the service immediately and send everyone home.

Mutual Ministry Review:

There was a discussion with regards to a draft of the MMR which was put together by Carol Whitney and Vicar Bill. One suggestion by Mr. Wilkinson was to change the order of questions having to do with the telephone tree responses. This change was made. No other changes were made and a copy of the draft will be sent to the congregation for their response.

New Business

Kristen Robuck has resigned from the Bishop's Committee due to her move to Florida. Carolyn Sorrell agreed to continue in her place. We are still down one position and several names were suggested for them, including Lee Halkias, who has expressed interest but was too new to the church to qualify for the position beginning 2020.

There was a discussion on the diocesan Anti-Racism plan, a copy of which was sent to the BC members. Ideas mentioned were:

- Follow a plan used by for the similar LGBTQ situation called 'Believe Out-loud'. It does, however, require face-to-face discussions which are not possible during this time of Covid outbreak.
- Start by bringing some members of New Fellowship Church into the conversation. We might be able to do this with a few key members using Zoom.
- Fr. Bill suggested that we put a notice in the newsletter for people to begin thinking about this.

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There was a discussion on '10 Questions to Ask Now', an article sent to the BC from the Congregational Consulting Group. This offered us a chance to "become more reflective" about "what we have lost" during the pandemic, "what did we assume" would change, and "what wants to emerge". A recurring theme that came up during the conversation was the importance of Community.

We will keep this questionnaire with us to continue thinking about and share with the congregation in a newsletter.

Report from the Commission on Outreach

Fr. Bill asked about the fall ingathering. The BC determined that the 2019 Ingathering was in October and the congregation had been notified in September.

This year, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we may have some challenges to consider regarding collecting the donations and bringing them into the church.

Vicar Bill suggested that once it was done we might display the offerings at the start of the streamed Sunday services.

Blaine Morgan, who was having audio problems with Zoom, indicated that he will need to get back to us for a report on that.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Submitted by Carolyn Sorrell