

St. Antony of Egypt Episcopal Church
Bishop's Committee
October 8, 2020
Meeting Minutes

The meeting opened with a prayer for guidance lead by Rev. Bill Fulton.

Others in attendance were the deacon, Rev. Bill Thaete, Jim Peterson, Carol Whitney, Blaine Morgan, Dave Wilkinson, Peter Stockwell and Carolyn Sorrell.

A Bible study on Philippians 4:4-7 was conducted by Fr. Bill.

The minutes of the September were approved with corrections.

The printed Treasurer's report will be forthcoming and sent to the Bishop's Committee upon completion. Treasurer, Jim Foley reported that we were down about \$6000 for the month of September and about \$2000 for the year, which was expected.

Old Business

Deacon Bill reported receipt from the diocesan Chancellor, of the St. Antony's Re-opening Plans which were edited and modified with few changes. The plans were approved and we are in compliance with diocesan regulations.

A list of '12 Steps to Successful Stewardship' provided by Bishop Rickel was read and discussed for initial planning of the 2020 Stewardship Campaign. We talked about the theme, "Desert Times, Desert Discipline" and how it's 'desert' meaning relates to our current condition of restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic. A suggestion was made to ask for volunteers from the congregation to make videoed talks that could be posted on FaceBook or played at the streamed Sunday Services. Carol Whitney offered to assist Fr. Bill in preparing a letter to be sent to the parishioners which would include a pledge card. A suggestion was made to put the pledge card on our website, where it might be downloaded and returned to the church.

Fr. Bill reported that the folks present for the Garden Planning session were concerned about inviting the community too soon, thus the name change from 'Community Garden Plans'. The BC discussed the idea of starting small as in having a garden used by St. Antony's only, with vegetables that could be made available for the Food Bank or people in need, and flowers for the altar.

Blaine Morgan noted a need for a copy of the Land Use plans to get us started.

Dave Wilkinson suggested a memorial garden that might be located behind the windows of our chapel and next to the church.

Along with location, a layout of the garden will need to be considered. Vicar Bill volunteered to prepare a temporary plan that could be revised per input from our landscape architect and unforeseen needs.

Carol Whitney reported 51 responses to the Mutual Ministry Review, which is a good percentage based on past year responses. A discussion ensued regarding the responses.

Highlights included an indication that people like good communication from the BC. Some folks are interested in returning to the church as soon as possible, but others are more concerned about returning at a time when they will be more certain about the safety of reopening. This pointed to a continuing long term need for streamed services. Access to the services streamed to Facebook are now available through the website without need for Facebook membership.

A suggestion was made to have a compilation of people who can meet the needs of others with challenges such as computer skills, legal assistance, repair assistance... in line with 'Time, Talent and Treasure'.

Blaine Morgan reported that preparations for the Fall Ingathering are going well and everything is in place re notifications and methods for donations. We have so far gathered 36 pounds of food and can use more volunteers on Oct 19th and 23rd for collecting the food in a non-contact manner.

Carol suggested we use the 'telephone tree' to remind people of the Ingathering specifics. She will send a letter to the callers regarding this.

New Business

Fr. Bill reports that Monday, the 12th is Indigenous Peoples' Day and the bishop has asked that we acknowledge it. We discussed a list on 'Why Introduce the practice of Land Acknowledgement'. Fr. Bill will announce it at Sunday's services and it will be acknowledged in a newsletter article for congregational consideration.

Further Business

Jim Foley brought up the issue of a filter system to clean the air in the nave for reopened services. Vicar Bill reminded us of the diocesan protocol for reopening which calls for continuous air flow. David Wilkinson asked if we had come up with a way to cut down on the fan noise and if it would entail use with the filter system. Fr. Bill reported having been told the noise cannot be lessened through our system of heating and air. Consideration of these issues are ongoing.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Carolyn Sorrell