

**Episcopal Church of the Incarnation  
January 19, 2021 – Regular Vestry Meeting**

**Location: Rectory and Zoom Online**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Bo Simons, Bob Priestley, Connie Sinclair, Diane Schoenrock, Fernando Dizon, Inese Heinzl, Judy Velasquez, Mark Neumann, Michael Del Vecchio, Nancy Wegge, Signe Sugiyama, Steven Layton, Stephen Shaver; David Jasper, Treasurer, Kathleen Kane, Clerk.

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** None

**FORMATION**

**Call to Order:** Stephen S called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm.

**Opening Prayers:** Chaplain Bob offered an opening reading by Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Collective check-in:** Judy, Stephen S, Diane, Inese, Nancy, and Bob gave brief personal check-ins.

**Reflection - prayers for the nation:** The vestry jointly recited prayers for the nation, the President of the U.S., those in civil authority, Congress, state legislatures, courts of justice, and sound government.

**DECISION**

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the December 15, 2020 vestry meeting were approved as written. (*Moved: Bob. Seconded: Nancy. Motion approved unanimously.*)

**DISCUSSION**

**Appreciation of outgoing vestry members:** The vestry shared words of appreciation for out-going members Bob, Nancy, Fernando, and Mark. Mark thanked all vestry members for their team work this year.

**Review of vestry priorities:** The vestry reviewed their MMR goals for 2021-22.

**Highs, lows, celebrations, learnings of 2020:** The vestry shared their thoughts about the sadnesses, joys, achievements, and lessons learned during 2020. What stood out most is that we've maintained a sense of community, have a lot to be grateful for, understand more than we did before, and are more flexible. See attached.

**Looking toward vestry year 2021-22:** Four new members will join the vestry after the election at the annual meeting. Stephen S is appointing Inese as Senior Warden for the coming year. Other positions will be determined through collaborative discernment process at the retreat, which will be held via Zoom on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 – 1 pm.

## **INFORMATION**

**Update on Annual Meeting - nominations, agenda:** The annual parish meeting will be held at 10:45 am on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Stephen S reviewed the annual meeting agenda and thanked Nancy and Connie for their work in developing the list of nominations for new vestry candidates and diocesan convention delegates.

**Treasurer's Report:** David presented the December 2020 / Year-End Summary Financial Report. More detailed information will be presented as part of the annual meeting report.

**Building & Grounds Committee:** Bob reported that Committee members will be contacting David Rodarmel to get more information about the roofing contract. Work should begin in June or July 2021. Bob noted that water will need to be supplied to the roof to enable cleaning of solar panels. The Committee will also contact the two solar companies that supplied quotes for panel installation to get their scopes of work to be sure there aren't any hidden costs. This will enable the Committee to feel confident in assessing and recommending a proposal. There are two proposals from Summit, one of which has an upgraded panel, and one proposal from Solar Craft. The Committee would like to have Mark and Fernando involved in final proposal review and recommendation because both were very involved as the wardens this past year and both will complete their vestry terms before final decision-making on the contracts. Stephen noted that good discernment will be needed to appoint a new committee chair now that Ken is no longer involved and Bob is also going off vestry. Stephen asked vestry members to consider who may be a good candidate, noting that the chair doesn't need to know everything about buildings and grounds, and that strong leadership skills will be important.

## **CLOSING**

Chaplain Connie offered a reflection on the Beatitudes.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:48 pm**

**Next monthly meeting of the vestry to be held during the retreat on Saturday, February 27, 2021.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Kane, Clerk

## Joys

- \* new life: babies
- \* had some baptisms!
  - \* we continue to worship together! have made some really big shifts successfully
    - \* some new members have found us online and we've reconnected with some who moved away
  - \* every challenge an opportunity: some who never would have been aware of us
    - \* helped me to stay connected at vestry even though just on a screen
  - \* the pledge campaign and people's response at the Town Hall with such enthusiasm and love to bring us over the top
    - \* the group I'm part of had legs and really gelled. Sad that others petered out but glad that this opportunity happened
- \* Stephen jumped on being a zoom church and the team has helped with that--able to continue as well as we were
  - \* Miss kids in church but seeing people in their living rooms is nice!
  - \* In person services were joyful and beautiful and so many contributed
    - \* Choirs able to continue at the degree they are

Achievements to celebrate

## Sadnesses

- \* not being in person: at church, singing, passing the peace
- \* people passed away and we couldn't celebrate them in person (e.g. Marilyn Payne) X
- \* not being able to give a hug
- \* not seeing smiles behind masks--being so separated
- \* things that went by wayside like Incarnation 100
- \* most of us have lived with so much stress this year--a lot.
- \* Christmas so difficult: not being with families far away or even friends and loved ones here

Things we learned

## Achievements to celebrate

- \* The pledge drive! It worked! Praise God!
- \* It looked (and felt) impossible
- \* The town halls were attended with such enthusiasm and engagement--I hope that carries over
  - \* People have learned people's names--a benefit of Zoom on coffee hour!
- \* Breakout groups have been good--no control of being with same people all the time, you meet different people
  - \* We've become a Zoom church and learned skills we can carry over to livestreaming when we go back
- \* The budget's balanced! With a bit of help, but sustainable
  - \* We've had some difficult and sensitive issues around the budget, have listened and dialogued with people and made it through
- \* Educating the congregation v. specifically of exactly where we are budget-wise contributed a lot to success of campaigns
- \* Ofrenda/Dia de Muertos project was beautiful and satisfying and helped us make new connections with Spanish speaking folks
  - \* Neighbor Groups project--despite some groups not gelling/not lasting forever, it was such a great way to form connections taht would never have been there otherwise X--I shared with nurse
- \* We've evolved--no matter what, we won't be the same, and we have new possibilities for outreach

## Sadnesses

- \* little kids we're missing for a whole year and seeing them run around in the quad
  - \* Coffee hour
  - \* Our sacred space
  - \* Needlepoint/cross stitch gatherings
  - \* Book groups etc
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- \* Communion services on Zoom with those at home were really special
  - \* 5:30 evening prayer meetings at beginning of pandemic were so meaningful, hope we can resume something like that; prayers for the nation
    - \* We've maintained Open Table as well as we have; what a blessing for homeless community
    - \* PPP grant worked out early on

## Things we've learned

- \* Zoom skills /squad
  - \* Some things we thought could never be rewarding (like Zoom church) actually are
  - \* Different time services online: groups that do those really appreciate them
- \* John has audio editing skills for choirs!
- \* Flexibility and adaptability--Stephen helps us with demeanor when things go wrong!
  - \* Spiritual growth for many--taking us back to basic living - finding Jesus in everything we do  
Being patient, taking less for granted, being hopeful, knowing Jesus and Holy Spirit with us
- \* How important it is for us and others to have spiritual home
- \* How to use the Prayer Book, using different parts of it--morning prayer/evening/night prayer--a new tool for me in my own spiritual growth
  - \* Mid-pandemic it's not unusual to have big social changes--we saw the George Floyd murder for what it was and understand at a deeper level--a lot of us studied that together and have grown more sophisticated in understanding how we can not mean to hurt others but still can
  - \* We're capable of more than we thought we were, as a congregation