

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
May 23, 2023 - Regular Vestry Meeting
Location: Short Hall

Minutes

Attendees: Allan Bolchazy, Bill Glenn, Joseph Ferrucci, Kathleen Baumgardner, Laura McLellan, Linelle Lane, Mark Neumann, Mark Sawdon, Patrick Lancaster, Sara Joslyn, Karin Dutra, Stephen Shaver, Rector; David Jasper, Treasurer.

Absent: Inese Heinzl; Kathleen Kane, Clerk.

Visiting Parishioners: None.

Call to Order: Stephen called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Opening Prayers and check-in: Laura shared a prayer by Edward Hayes, and a gathering prayer from Beyond Land Acknowledgement. She lit a candle for the group, and we prayed the gathering prayer together.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of the April 2023 meeting: Approval of April 25, 2023, vestry meeting minutes. Minutes approved unanimously.

Update from Going Beyond Land Acknowledgement team: At the April 25, 2023, meeting the vestry was asked to approve a Land Acknowledgement draft presented by Stephen and Miriam Casey. Stephen thinks the church should have a statement and he believes this is a good statement, but it is the vestry's call. Four directions with the decision are possible: adopt as written, adopt with revisions, send the statement back to the team with recommendations, or put the acknowledgement on hold. The document can include the names of Indigenous groups in the future. We can add the acknowledgement to our bulletin and possibly post the document on campus.

Discussion: Sara asked about the purpose of the document in the context of the church. Laura commented that the injustice present today with various groups has risen to the top of current concerns. Concerns were expressed that we are on the land we are acknowledging as belonging to the tribes without making concrete amends. The group was reminded that the name of the group is called "Going Beyond..." Mark N. said that we need to bring discomfort to the fore regarding this issue, which will prompt resolution. Bill said "affirm Indigenous sovereignty" is troubling and recommends pulling the phrase out to improve the statement. Joe is in favor of the statement, and as a lawyer he felt "unceded" might lead people to believe this is a legal statement. Laura explained that RedBud group feels that sovereignty is an important concept for their people. For them, the meaning leans toward nation status within the larger country. Bill commented that the rainbow flag speaks to him,

and he feels that an Acknowledgement statement is important in a similar way but could be more powerful if we add statements about what we hope to do. Clarity is needed around what “affirming” and “sovereignty” mean to all parties. Stephen answered the question using materials presented at previous Open Forums and suggested that we may need to provide more opportunities to educate the congregation on what the “Beyond” group is trying to accomplish. What are the tribes asking for? Impactful action that educates the public and acknowledges the “erasure” of Indigenous values (particularly with regard to land) from the current culture.

Bill moved that we pass a “sense-of-the-vestry resolution” to revisit this subject robustly in the fall. Kathleen B. seconded. Resolution approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Monthly Report

David presented the April Summary Financial Report as an information item and responded to questions from vestry members.

Pre-authorization for funding for tree work on heritage oak

Our oak tree is a healthy tree but needs a trim on the long branch that extends over the courtyard. Sara moved that the vestry approve the written request for \$3,600 from the Building and Grounds fund for maintenance on our heritage oak. Joe seconded. Approved unanimously.

Pride Festival

Allan said we have our booth and our place in the parade for the Pride Festival on June 2. Many of the local churches are participating in the group and supporting the booth. The team is working on gathering volunteers from all churches. Banners and signs are being created.

150th Anniversary Celebration

Kathleen B. presented the ideas on her summary handout. She suggested a 100-person gathering on December 2, 2023, that starts in the church with music and continues with a reception. The reception includes displays and speakers that can show and share about the history of Incarnation. She is requesting a budget of \$5,000 for the party.

Linelle asked if 100 people is too low a number? Perhaps 200 people? Sara reminded the group that this is a pre-party for a larger community party in the Spring. Stephen thinks that with the invite list, which includes dignitaries, this reception may be more appropriate for the Spring event? Linelle thought that the Spring event would be the big one with history displays. Would we be doing everything twice? Bill agreed that we need to pare the December event down to a more sacred interior event for the congregation. Laura asked if the December event ideas could be incorporated into the Bishop’s visit on Thursday, November 30. Possibly a Eucharist service with a reception (and speaker) before or after the service. Vestry agreed that the best solution is

to dress up the Thursday event for the bishop and eliminate the Saturday event. Kathleen B. and the team will continue working on the details for the Bishop's visit.

Sara moved that we grant \$5,000 from the Estates fund for the November 30 event with Bishop Megan. Seconded by Bill. Approved unanimously.

Phase 2 Generational Master Plan (and Annual Calendar)

Stephen reviewed the planning calendar for the next stage of the Imagine Incarnation process. The calendar is very tight this year with the 150th Anniversary and Imagine events. The next Imagine Incarnation congregational meeting is in October 2023. A second longer "exploration" meeting is planned for a Saturday in November, and the vestry and the Property Development team will meet late in November. The Vestry retreat will be a two-night retreat, February 2-4, 2024, with extensive time with Siegel and Strain and the Property Development Task Force. At the end of February, the congregation will be involved again with another Imagine Incarnation session. The Annual Meeting will need to be moved up to January 14, 2024, (MLK weekend) to accommodate the process. There is a need to blend the taskforce, vestry, and congregational vision at all points in the Imagine Incarnation process, although Allan mentioned that the vestry has the final call. Allan, Kathleen K. and David are on the Property Development Taskforce, if anyone has questions during Stephen's sabbatical.

Report from the Development Committee

Bill and Inese are going to Congregation Leadership Conference (regarding stewardship). Inese is concerned that the kickoff for stewardship is too late and suggested October 8. Stephen asked the Development team to work with Linelle, Allan, and staff regarding a change of dates for the Stewardship Campaign. The Welcome center is going well. Sara commented that the center is very nice and invites conversations. Stephen likes that he can announce a place for newcomers to go to after the service.

Update on Invite-Welcome-Connect

Mark S. congratulated Inese on her summary of what has been accomplished so far, including the new pew cards and the welcome center.

Stephen wished us well as he goes on sabbatical and knows this team will be able to support the church with Rod while he is gone. Please pray for him and he will pray for us.

Summing up tonight's meeting for parish announcement

- Beyond Land Acknowledgement continued discernment is needed after deep discussion.
- 150th Anniversary with Bishop Megan, November 30, funds approved for the event.
- Pride Parade (a primary parish announcement)
- Funding for maintenance of our healthy oak tree

Closing Prayer: Laura offered a Celtic blessing for Stephen as he goes on sabbatical.

Meeting adjourned: 8:41 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Karin Dutra