

Minutes of the St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church Vestry  
June 20, 2016

Meeting convened at 6:30 pm.

Present: Rector Kevin D. Huddleston; Parish Administrator John Goddard; Sr. Warden David Wiggins; Jr. Warden Bob Carlson; Clerk Lindsay Mohn; Lindsey Hill; Scott Schaefer; Ronda Barker; Dahl Metters; Bob Skaggs; Leta Anderson; Mike Meng; Stephanie Stratemeier

Absent: Treasurer Win Zoellner; David Schlomer; Allie Marquis; Debbie Treglia

Mr. Schaefer led an opening devotion.

Ms. Anderson led a community building activity.

Ms. Barker gave a summary of the class that nine members of STMAA audited at BKSM recently. Craig Loya, former Canon to The Ordinary in the Kansas Diocese led the instruction. The topic was 'Contemporary Mission'. Ms. Barker shared the parable of Martha and Mary, then extended it to the church in the current culture. Dean Loya offered 5 issues that are crucial to being a 'Mary' church in a 'Martha' world. They were as follows:

- 1) There must be deep discipleship. Scripture must be incorporated into everything. This may require giving some things up.
- 2) Discernment must be constant. The goal is to help people get closer to God.
- 3) The church must practice 'radical neighborliness', everywhere and all of the time. This requires involvement of the lay ministry.
- 4) Utilize storytelling. Coach parishioners to give testimony about how God has changed their lives. Then sing. Right away.
- 5) The church must serve the marginalized. It's not enough to provide lunch, you must provide community.

Ms. Barker recommended a TED talk by Ernesto Sirolli, a missionary. She emphasized the importance of listening prior to acting. She added that a playful and experimental atmosphere is encouraged. However, there will be some who are resistant to change, and there may be wisdom in that. Ms. Barker used the example of social media recommendations such as Yelp, saying that our current culture values individual recommendations, even from complete strangers, over expert information.

Ms. Barker shared some books she had purchased in connection with Dean Loya's class. She recommended 'The Agile Church' (Dwight Zscheile) as being easy to get through. She also brought up the idea of the missional church, saying that God was already out there working in the community. The book recommendation in this case was 'Missional: Joining God in the Neighborhood' (Alan Roxburgh). In the missional church, God is always changing (like the God of Plato's philosophy). The Missional church is incarnational not transformational. Most problems in the church are adaptive, and hold complex challenges which cannot be solved with typical technical solutions. The challenge is to create a place in which we are present to God and to one another. Ms. Barker used a story to exemplify that the current culture feels the church is not listening.

There will be discussion and dinner of Dean Loya's class at the Huddleston's tomorrow evening at 6:30 pm. Kevin+ has invited the parishioners who attended the class, but also extended the invitation to the Vestry at large, saying he was interested in hearing others' opinions.

Father Huddleston began his report with a question: What is the average weekly attendance at Episcopal churches in the United States? The answer is between 50-60. About 3.5% of those churches have a membership of more than 350 people. As a comparison, STMAA has average attendance of about 400 (at weekend services combined), with an approximate membership of 1,500-2,000. It struck Kevin+ recently that although STMAA is the largest parish in the Kansas Diocese, it is by far the smallest congregation he has served in. Father Huddleston's remarks provoked lengthy conversation about where STMAA is, and where it could/should/might be headed. He is eager to make changes in order to energize the parish, although not just for the sake of change. The suggestion of focusing on small group ministries arose again, and it was agreed that small groups are community and relationship builders, but that we need to

settle on a model that is appealing to the largest group of people. The Vestry is aware that there are many small groups already formed and functioning, but the intent is to design them less about similar interests in order to attract a diversity of parishioners interested in studying scripture as well as taking on Outreach projects.

There was no Sr. Warden report.

Mr. Carlson sent a Jr. Warden report out prior to the meeting. There was nothing remarkable to report on, mainly issues already in progress.

The Financial report was accepted as written. Mr. Zellner's review stated that there was nothing significant to report. The Finance Committee thanked Reverend John Goddard for his work on several projects, including the updating of the Employee Handbook.

The May Minutes were accepted with one date correction noted by Mr. Metters.

Vestry members offered the names of five candidates as potential replacements for Mr. Matthew, who recently resigned. This issue was tabled until the July meeting.

Rally Day will be held on August 14th.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm. Next meeting will be Monday, July 11th (please note date change) at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Mohn  
Clerk