

Meeting of the Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church Vestry  
August 15, 2016

Present: Rector Reverend Kevin D. Huddleston; Associate Rector Reverend David Cox; Sr. Warden David Wiggins; Treasurer Win Zoellner; Clerk Lindsay Mohn; Parish Administrator John Goddard; Allie Marquis; Dahl Metters; Lindsey Hill; Mike Meng; Leta Anderson; Ronda Barker; Debbie Treglia; Stephanie Stratemeier

Absent: Jr. Warden Bob Carlson; David Schlomer; Scott Schaefer; Bob Skaggs

Guest: STMAA Foundation Chair John Marquis

Meeting opened with a team building exercise led by Ms. Anderson.

Father Kevin led the group in a 'Dwelling in the Word' exercise based on Luke 5:36-39.

Mr. Marquis gave the annual report of the STMAA Foundation. They have assets in the amount of approximately \$1.2M under the management of Country Club Trust's advisory services. The Foundation's distribution percentage is determined by their Trustees, and is generally expected to be in the range of 4-7% each year. Once the amount available for distribution is known, the Foundation asks for funding recommendations from the Vestry. If approved, the funds are issued during the first quarter of the following year. In 2016, a total of \$58,278 was distributed to 13 organizations. Mr. Marquis briefly discussed the relatively new 'Legacy Society', which 'recognizes parishioners who have remembered the church in their estate plans'. David Hanzlick is currently heading up the effort to 'expand and promote the Society'. Ms. Stratemeier asked if there are any restricted funds, and Mr. Marquis replied that there are currently three, a youth fund, a music fund and a fund for the use of the Daughters of the King. A \$25K donation is required to establish a dedicated/restricted fund. As there were no other questions, Mr. Marquis left the meeting.

Father Huddleston opened his report with a thank you to the members of the Vestry who attended Bigger Bible Study last week. Impressions from Vestry members regarding the program by Craig Loya included the following:

Mr. Metters was impressed by the 'listening message'.

Ms. Stratemeier thought the points emphasized by Rev. Loya reinforced messages in the recent Vestry letter to the parish.

Ms. Treglia thought the 'greatness in failure' message was positive, joyful and energizing.

Ms. Hill thought the messages could be applied to anyone.

Ms. Barker thought the example of the three practices was tight and concise, though available for interpretation. (They were: Follow Jesus, Go Into the Neighborhood and Tread Lightly).

Ms. Anderson thought that the practical guidelines and small experiments offered were as good or better than HAGS.

Father Kevin asked where the Vestry saw the Spirit moving related to the BBS topics.

Mr. Zoellner thought that progress and change were slow in spite of the recent conversations and would like to see us move to the action phase. He is concerned about the amount of discussion about the death of the church.

Ms. Treglia said that Rev. Loya did not appear panicked regarding the decline in membership, and it was reassuring that he did not seem focused on increasing the numbers.

Ms. Hill thought Rev. Loya had accepted the cultural shift.

Ms. Anderson wondered how STMAA could take action in the neighborhood. She wondered how STMAA can be an

asset there.

Ms. Marquis said she volunteers at a couple of charitable organizations that are looking for volunteers all the time, especially young people.

Ms. Barker said she saw us going in three directions, the first being following Jesus inwardly, the second being going out into the neighborhood to see what God is doing (not in an attempt to bring in members) and the third is to figure out how to make the community feel interconnected.

Ms. Anderson wondered aloud what we do, how we develop traction.

Father Kevin suggested implementing something to see if it gets energy and then taking it forward or dropping it based on its success. He mentioned the Outreach Ministry he used at STMAA Dallas, which had 5 - 6 groups involved in about 50 different things. Kevin then asked 'What's your passion? What breaks your heart. It probably breaks God's heart, too.' He then wondered how to give people the permission to 'do stuff'.

Ms. Stratemeier asked how we coalesce into going out into the neighborhood?

Ms. Marquis suggested offering people a few choices of small or large outreach activities to participate in.

Ms. Anderson pointed out that 'start internally' was one of Rev. Loya's practical guidelines. He said to listen for the passion. The Meet the Rector neighborhood cells or a block party concept might work. She suggested such an activity for the Day School families.

Ms. Barker suggested using dinners of any type as community builders. The Cathedral puts a 'plant' at each table to manage an intentional and structured agenda.

Ms. Stratemeier asked about the status of the Stephens Ministry.

Father David replied that Pastoral Care had been floundering (other than the funeral ministry team) and needed a revision. Three parishioners are getting the 50 hours of training required to become a Stephen Leader. They will focus on being a confidant for anyone in a crisis situation. They will be trained to know when it is time to recommend professional help.

Ms. Anderson said that she thinks the biggest block to spirituality is the current culture of chronic distraction. She said that the next 'Women Who Love' meeting will include a brainstorming session.

Father Kevin asked how the Vestry thought he could help people pursue their spiritual passions.

Ms. Marquis said she felt people did not know what was going on outside of Prairie Village, and that if they did they would do more because 'education leads to action'.

Ms. Barker asked how we could encourage risk taking in order to start new ministries.

Ms. Treglia said it could come as the Rector's reflection from the pulpit.

Ms. Anderson said it could start with the GPS group or with any other small group.

Ms. Treglia said that people need tools and that the Vestry can facilitate without taking ownership.

Father Kevin charged the Vestry with talking with and listening to people to see what they could discern.

Father Goddard opened the Parish Administrator's report with the information that there is a new website in the works. There is also a new email system in place. The announcements in PDF format have been well received. They are working on a data base update, but it has been tedious and full of errors. If an individual has not been seen in church since 2013 and has also not contributed any funds since that time they will be removed from the membership list. Liz Beedle has made a lot of headway and has cleaned up financial issues. The personnel handbook is being updated, and personnel files are being built. One staff member will be going through required safety training. They are also conducting a couple of background checks within the staff. Father Goddard has spent 70% of his planned time in this position, and intends to finish mid-October.

There was brief discussion about conducting some sort of interview with parishioners who express their intention to leave the parish. It might be helpful to determine if there are trends or common themes.

In Old Business, a motion was made and a vote was taken to contact a parishioner to ask if he/she would be willing to serve as a replacement Vestry member for Damon Matthew who resigned a few months ago. An alternate was also named by motion and vote. Mr. Matthew's replacement will serve through 2017.

Jr. Warden Carlson was absent but sent out his report by email. Highlights include a couple of repairs in the women's restroom and the replacement of the fan motor in one of the AC units. The AC unit that services Spencer Hall was in need of a new belt, which (with thanks to Jerry, Tony and John) was completed prior to the beginning of BBS. It was discovered that at least one of the rubber bumpers footing the kneelers in the Sanctuary was broken, revealing a screw head that a visitor was injured on during a recent funeral. The bumpers have now been inspected and replaced. Projects in progress continue, including HVAC replacement in the library, the garden low voltage lighting issue, work in the choir loft and repairs to the irrigation system. Future projects include diagnosis of the control problem in the heating of the Nave, which causes the Day School classrooms to overheat. Further action will include sealing and re-striping the parking lot within the next 1 - 2 years.

Treasurer Zoellner distributed the July 2016 Financial Committee Report. Highlights for July include higher than projected revenue which includes a \$5K gift given for IT upgrades. July expenses were also higher than projected since insurance premiums, clergy pension payments and both clergy and lay HSA payments were made. Expenses for July were \$116K and revenue was \$99K. These variances (from \$91K and \$71K respectively) are largely timing related. YTD revenue and expenses are presently on track both with the budget and with prior year. Parish Accountant Liz Beedle has made some balance sheet changes in an attempt to make it not only accurate, but easier to read.

A Letter of Support and Commitment from the Vestry was circulated for signatures. Larry Bingham, Debbie Kremers, Linda Kisker, Debbie Treglia and Ronda Barker are being presented as suitable for licensing as Lay Catechists.

Ms. Barker said she thought the Saturday night service music was fabulous.

Ms. Treglia suggested children participating in the Eucharist should be old enough and able to be respectful of the process.

There were no corrections or changes to the minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Mohn  
Clerk of the Vestry