

All Saints Episcopal Church – Hilton Head SC
November 28, 2023
Zoom Vestry Meeting Minutes

Present on Zoom: Rev. Denise Trogden, Rev. Katie Presley, Mike Binford, Joyce Emmett, Anita Hill, Jack Case, Becky Forbes, Charlie Forbes, Howard Coonley, Pam Neyhouse, Bob Colegrove, Marilyn Roper, Jerry Simmons

Absent: Rev. Pam Fahrner, Nancy Tillinghast, Zeke Hanzl

1. Mike Binford called November's ZOOM Vestry meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
2. The Rev. Denise Trogdon led the opening prayer by using a meditation from Walter Brueggemann's *Celebrating Abundance*, a text adopted for Advent by ASEC.
3. Mike requested approval for the October 24, 2023 Vestry meeting minutes, distributed earlier electronically; they were approved and passed without objection.
4. Book discussion followed covering Chapters 12-17 of Brian McClaren's **We Make the Road by Walking**. Individual vestry members offered personal commentary on sections that were particularly meaningful to them.
5. Updates and Discussion followed next on several topics:

Diocesan Convention Review

Commenting on a few changes present in this year's convention, Denise noted that:

- An additional day was added for learning and formation time.
- Keynote speakers, Rev. Dr. Michael Battle and Sophronia Scott, were outstanding, each sharing personal experiences, the first with Desmond Tutu and the second with a child who experienced the Sandy Hook trauma.
- Most diocesan votes "confirmed" resolutions passed last year, as is customary.
- A strategic diocesan plan for the next 5 years was also laid out and approved. Every parish in the diocese had a representative on the committee that formulated this plan before its passage.

Katie commented that, unlike earlier years of contention, this year's convention was peaceful. "All of the litigations are over, and we can close these chapters of past dissension. We look forward to testifying in favor of collegiality and the future of this diocese."

New 2024 Vestry Members

Mike noted that of the four vestry candidates needed, there are two who have definitely accepted nominations to serve on the 2024 vestry: Dana Duncan and Bobby Helbig. He

said he is tracking down others, and Denise indicated she also has someone who is considering.

Stewardship Update

Bob indicated that we have reached 80% of our dollar pledge goal for 2024, with \$653,924 pledged as of this date.

- Both regular and other givers have increased their pledges
- Denise & Katie suggested that next year's "Ingathering Pledge Week-End" should occur before the Thanksgiving week-end because so many are away or traveling.
- Bob felt an E-blast note is certainly in order since it's certainly not too late to pledge for 2024 or catch up to this year's pledge.

Jack noted that this \$654,000 represents a 12.4% increase over last year's regular pledge total at the same point in time. He felt: "People have heard the message and are complying." He also said:

- Of the 250 pledge packets that were sent out, 200 had pledged before, and 147 of those returned their commitments already.
- If more return their cards, there is a potential for an additional \$100-135,000.

To Marilyn's question about whether all vestry members increased their pledges as an example, Charlie indicated that the vote to increase personal pledging by 10%, along with vestry commitment, was mentioned several times in the pulpit's "Stewardship Minute(s)" during all services.

Preliminary Budget for 2024

Several members then offered comment on the preliminary budget's total and its content:

- Bob reminded the Vestry that this budget was presented and unanimously approved by the Finance Committee recently.
- Becky said that preceding this vote, each commissioned area of need was asked to carefully review their budget, giving best estimates of 2024 costs. So, there is no concern about the validity of these amounts.
 - She noted that the largest portion of the budget involves salaries, benefits, insurance costs, infrastructure repairs and maintenance. These are real expense numbers that "have" to be met and can't be trimmed.
 - She also said that we will finish this 2023 year close to "breaking even." Thus, with a better start to 2024 projections and potential for future membership growth, she felt strongly that the proposed budget should work.

ACTION: Mike moved to adopt the projected provisional 2024 budget. Bob and Jerry simultaneously seconded the motion. Unanimous Vestry member approval followed.

A more finalized version of the 2024 budget will be presented and approved at the January 28 Annual Meeting.

Other Action Items: Clergy Housing Allowance Resolutions

ACTION: Two Housing Allowance Resolutions for both Katie Presley and Denise Trogdon, legally worded and presented to the Vestry earlier for study(included with this meeting's reports), were each then unanimously voted on for approval & passed.

- Becky indicated that with a change in diocesan regulations, this vestry approval process will no longer need to be done on a yearly basis.

6. Reports:

Though all were read, verbal additions &/or commentary during the meeting occurred for topics related to some reports:

Rector's Report

Denise Trogdon

Denise commented that

- November was an unusually active month for outreach efforts, citing multiple areas.
- She reminded vestry members that though no liaison report was required for the December vestry meeting, each was responsible for a yearly summary of work done within their liaison area; the report is to be sent to Jessie who will gather them altogether for the Annual meeting as well as post them on the website.

Senior Associate Rector's Report

Pam Fahrner

Associate Rector's Report

Katie Presley

Senior Warden Report

Mike Binford

Junior Warden's Report

Joyce Emmett

Finance/Foundation

B. Forbes/J. Case

Stewardship

B. Colgrove

Building & Grounds

Pam Neyhouse /Anita Hill

Worship/Music

Howard Coonley/Jerry Simmons

Adult Education

Nancy Tillinghast/Mike Binford

Communications

Charlie Forbes

Welcoming/Newcomers

Marilyn Roper

Social Justice

Zeke Hanzl

Outreach

Joyce Emmett

Children & Family

Joyce Emmett

7. Calendar Items:

- December 12 Vestry Dinner Meeting at 6 pm
- January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting
- February 2&3 2024 Vestry Retreat
- February 11 Bishop to visit All Saints

- Nov 21-23 Diocesan Convention (Sonesta Hilton Head) – *ASEC will hold the opening Eucharistic liturgy and this will be followed by a festive reception hosted by our church. Convention work will take place at the hotel.*

8. Additional Questions/Comments

- Bob said he still lacked clarity in terms of how the new kitchen stove turned off. He was told it always should remain on STAR, which is the pilot light.
 - Pam said that we need some type of temperature reader to determine when the oven reaches the desired amount of heat.
 - Joyce commended Bob for “doing such a great job organizing the Thanksgiving Dinner’ in Gordon Mann Hall. Denise also thanked him for reminding us of this custom that was dropped during COVID. She said 48 people were in attendance.
9. The next Vestry meeting will be in Gordon Mann Hall on December 12 @6:00 pm.
10. Katie Presley offered a closing prayer.
11. Adjournment occurred at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita L. Hill
Clerk of the Vestry