

Vestry Meeting Minutes
Grace and Holy Trinity Church
Richmond, Virginia
April 14, 2020
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

Members Present: Thomas Ewers, Barbara Derry, Lisa Dawson, David Hetherington, Bill Perkins, Rosalie West, Lara Wulff, Glenn Moore, Todd Pawson, Elaine Quinn, Nancy Trego, Carl Blackwell, Bev Eggleston, Martin Erb, Jodie Pully, Kathleen Thomas, Bill Queen (Interim Rector), and David Lewis (non-voting Register)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Kim Reinholz and Barb Dodd

Guests: none

Call to Order

Bill Queen called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM, and a quorum was confirmed.

Opening Prayer

Bill Queen led the vestry in saying the Lord's Prayer.

Amend & Adopt Agenda

After amendment of the agenda to include selecting someone to record a summary of tonight's meeting for inclusion with Sunday's online worship, a motion to adopt the amended agenda was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Adoption of 2/11/2020 Vestry Minutes

A motion was made to adopt the February minutes without amendment. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Discussion & Adoption of Financial Reports

Discussion of the financial reports included:

1. the unpredictability of the present situation,
2. our current cash position,
3. income and expenses being not far from where we were last year,
4. expectations of lower income due to church closure,
5. recent gifts,
6. diminished expenses due to church not meeting in the building,
7. the rolling 3-year average used to budget endowment funds,

8. the usefulness of sorting prepaid pledges from others to better know how many pledges are current, and
9. recent changes to the tax incentives for charitable giving (information about which will be disseminated soon).

A motion to accept the reports unamended was seconded and unanimously approved.

Annual Giving Update

See the printed report, but Barb Dodd also reported:

1. folks who usually contribute to the offering plate and by check have been mailing their checks in,
2. online giving is growing, and we now have a tutorial, thanks to Shelli Lord-Pawson,
3. new members have pledged in the last month,
4. that she has attended a number of webinars on ShelbyNext's capabilities, including volunteer signups, and
5. cards are going out to parishioners, and the vestry should contact her to see how they can get involved.

G&HTC Trustee Election

A motion to adopt the resolution naming John Thomas as the church's third trustee was moved, second, and carried unanimously.

Election of Diocesan Delegate and Alternate

The delegate and alternate will serve as parish representatives to the region, too. The motion to elect Shelli Lord-Pawson as the primary delegate and Nick Sollog as alternate delegate was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Interim Rector's Report

See the printed report, but also noted and discussed were the following:

1. online worship adjustments—The inclusion of children, including work by Aaron Davis, is good, but something involving teenagers would be useful, perhaps a video clip in which a young person asks a question to be answered by clergy.
2. pastoral care, including feedback from phone calls placed by the vestry. Another round of communication, asking how online worship is going, might be useful. What form this communication might take and who would do it were discussed.
3. attendance for online worship and how we can count online worship for attendance purposes in our report next year. By views, our attendance at Palm Sunday services was as good or better than in-person attendance last year.

Associate Rector's Report

See the printed report, but also noted and discussed was Red Door Ministry's continuing work in changed circumstances including:

1. Volunteers, diminished in number on purpose, are following social distancing guidelines and serving about 125 guests each week.
2. Guests are anxious to know when they might come in again for the restrooms, for the clothing, for the healing service, and so on.
3. Guests' other options are limited, with some ministries ending services (if only temporarily) and others not yet ready to begin.
4. Volunteers' numbers are sufficient. Kim wants to keep various parts of Red Door (staff, parishioners, VCU, et alia) engaged.

Sr Warden's Report

Thomas Ewers reported that the Parish Profile was not yet ready due to issues arising from the present situation with COVID-19 and submitted a letter from Paul Evans.

With respect to the Parish Profile, it is expected to be ready by 19 April. The Sr Warden's view is that it should be distributed to vestry members before the meeting on 12 May. The vestry should consider it and pose their questions beforehand. The present situation will possibly delay naming a new rector by about a month. In-person discussions were expected to happen in July/August at the earliest, and now we can expect them in August/September.

With respect the letter from Paul Evans, the vestry discussed his and his family's adjustment to life in northern Virginia, the moving of his classes online, past financial support from this parish, and how he might help with the young persons' question mentioned above in the Interim Rector's Report.

Vestry Commissioning

Bill led a brief and prayerful commissioning of vestry and officers. The commissioning was recorded to be made available to the congregation.

Upcoming Date

12 May 2020, 5 PM –May vestry meeting. It will likely be another Zoom meeting like this one.

Video Summary of Meeting

The Sr Warden volunteered to provide the video summary.

Adjournment with Prayer

Bill Queen read a prayer shared by Bishop Goff, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted by David Lewis, 6 May 2020.