

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Austin, Texas
Vestry Meeting Minutes – December 20, 2022 @ 6:30 pm

Meeting in person at Mary Nell Frucella's house

Vestry Members in Attendance: Ann O'Connell (Senior Warden), Lise Harding (Junior Warden), Gary McNeil, Blythe Wilson, Joyce Statz, Vicki Blumhagen, Chris Hansen, Anne Webster, Christian von Wupperfeld, Armando Ruiz, David Kennedy, Stephanie McCollum, Jim Michael, Nicole Banister.

Vestry Members Absent: Kelli Hughes

Clergy in Attendance: Rev. Katie Wright (Rector), Rev. Chanta Bhan (Associate Priest), Rev. Andrew Benko (Associate Priest).

Business Manager: Chris Schumacher (absent)

Treasurer: Nora Foster (absent)

Guest: Mary Nell Frucella

The December 20, 2022 meeting of the Vestry of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church was called to order by Rector Katie Wright at 6:42 pm. Katie then recognized Senior Warden, Ann O'Connell, to preside over the business portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The first item was consideration of the November 29, 2022 meeting minutes. A motion to approve was made, seconded and **unanimously approved**.

The next item was acceptance of the Commission/Committee/Council reports. A motion to accept the reports was made, seconded and **unanimously approved**.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Next up for consideration were motions to approve IRS Housing Resolutions for Katie, Chanta and Andrew.
 - For Approval: Motion to approve the IRS Housing Resolution for the Rev. Katie Wright.
 - For Approval: Motion to approve the IRS Housing Resolution for the Rev. Chanta Bhan.
 - For Approval: Motion to approve the IRS Housing Resolution for the Rev. Andrew Benko.A motion to approve housing resolutions for each was made, seconded and **unanimously approved**.
2. The next item was a review of the Strategic Plan presented by Christian Von Wupperfeld. He advised the draft of the Strategic Plan included many of the concepts set out in the earlier Salt and Light project, but this plan did add inclusivity as a goal. It also includes a positioning statement, and focus areas of discipleship, outreach, and communication. Some operational items were included in the draft as well as a strategy screening tool. We will continue to look for possible collaborations with outside groups. Christian asked everyone to help him with focus area objectives and provide any comments to him by December 31.
3. Joyce Statz reported that the Finance Commission had been reviewing new auditor candidates and would be meeting with the final two candidates shortly.

BUSINESS MANAGERS REPORT:

Provided in pre-read folder, not reviewed in meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

With respect to financials, Joyce reported that actual expenses for the year were lower than budgeted which more than offset lower revenues for the year so that the parish is in a sound financial position.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:

- Blythe Wilson reported that pledge numbers for 2023 were almost identical to those for 2022 which is a good sign as we come out of the pandemic.
- Jim Michael reported that a hand rail would be installed on the steps to the altar to assist lay readers and others in getting to the ambo.

CLERGY COMMENTS:

Katie reported that Lise Harding had been hired as the new interim Executive Assistant to the Rector and thus would resign from the Vestry after the meeting to start the job the next day. Vestry members thanked Lise for all she had done as Junior Warden and said they looked forward to working with her in her new capacity.

Katie also announced that Nora Foster's employer has her working out of state a lot now and she would no longer be able to serve as Treasurer. Lisa Ottenbacher has agreed to begin serving as Treasurer, but not until the end of June 2023. Jack Robertson has agreed to serve as interim Treasurer until that time.

WARDEN COMMENTS:

Lise and Ann said they have enjoyed their time on the Vestry and thanked members for their service. Lise reminded everyone about the Vestry Budget meeting on 1/8 and the Annual Meeting on 1/22, where traditionally the outgoing Vestry members count the votes.

Katie thanked Mary Nell for hosting the meeting in her home. In closing, she asked everyone present to name something for which they are grateful for and then closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.