

St. Helena's Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes

May 21, 2019

Vestry Present: Steve Beach, Cynthia Day, Cindy Erickson, Chris Godsey, Jasen Hart, John Howe, Paul Johnson, Mark LittleStar, Karen Medina, Julie Vickery & Erin Barton

Vestry Absent: Brian Topper

Clergy: The Rev. David G. Read

Staff/Treasurer: Ann Shorter

Visitors: None

Call to Order: 6:37 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Fr. David Read

Minutes: March & April approved by Vestry consensus.

Rector's Time

- **Congregational Size Theory:** Premise: Church congregations and their functionality, ministry organizations, leadership roles of clergy & vestries, and lay leadership are not a "one size fits all." Congregations can be placed in one of four styles of congregations based on average Sunday attendance. Each of the four styles has their own unique strengths and weaknesses. Dr. Arlin Rothauge developed the theory in 1983, and it is now used nationwide in all denominations as the textbook to understanding norms of churches based on congregation size. We can learn a lot about our church using this theory. In order to keep growing, the congregational culture must change as clergy, vestry and staff roles are adjusted to meet the increase in church size.
- **Bishop's Visit:** The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson worshiped with us on May 19. She confirmed 31 persons plus 2 who transferred their membership. It was a great visit. Kudos, too, to Dawn McLendon who did a fantastic job with our youth class!
- **The Story:** Concluded on May 19, a 31-week study conducted at every age level. It was a great success!
- **Staff Retreat:** During their retreat, the staff prioritized our top three opportunities for the upcoming school year (1) we need more small groups which will assist in parishioner relationships and pastoral care (2) raise the bar of the quality of the 9:00 a.m. service (3) expand new member incorporation into the life of the church for the first full year of membership.
- **Parish Hall Redo:** Appoint a small committee to determine how we can improve the appearance of the Parish Hall. The committee will create a budget, identify the areas of improvement, seek bids and report their findings to the Buildings & Ground subcommittee of the Vestry for approval.
- **Endowment Update:** Fr. David and Ron Tribo met with Dan Butt (Chair of Episcopal Church Foundation in West Texas) and an attorney, Mike Peace, to seek a legal recommendation as to how to improve our endowment structure to maintain the integrity of the endowment as it was created but also keep up with inflation rates so that money is not lost each year. **The Vestry approved by consensus moving forward with legal proceedings.**

Senior Warden (Jasen Hart)

- **Church Staffing:** At some point in the relative near future, due to the size of our church congregation, we need an additional clergy member on staff.

- **Vestry Hosting:** Remember to check all collection plates every Sunday for plate offerings as well as check the drawer of the hutch in the Sacristy for possible money the Altar Guild has placed there from the collection plates, too.
- **SHEEP & BMSN After School Traffic Flow:** For the safety of all students, input will be collected from Tiffany Jureczki (SHEEP Director) and then a meeting scheduled with the Boerne Middle School North Principal to discuss ways to ensure safety for students when departing their respective schools for afternoon carpool pick-up.

Subcommittee Meetings/Reports

- **Mission (Cindy Erickson)**
 - There was a great turn-out for Youth Trivia Night with just over \$2,500 raised for the youth mission trip to Wounded Knee, SD. Money is still being raised for the youth mission trip and a grant is being requested from the West Texas Diocese of the Episcopal Church to help fund the trip.
- **Administration (John Howe & Ann Shorter)**
 - Financials were reviewed. John will also review the Building Use Policy as it has been updated. **Adopted by Consensus the Finance Reports for March & April, 2019.**
- **Buildings and Grounds (Chris Godsey)**
 - **Historic Sanctuary Garden Fountain** is leaking. A temporary solution has been put in place; however, for a long term solution, meter functionality is being reviewed and also working with Boerne city officials to solve this problem. It has been a challenge to locate the leak.
 - **Wendler Hall Stairs** will be demolished and concrete stairs will be constructed (per design made by a structural engineer) at some point this summer when the church campus is most accessible, working around scheduled events. As of now, the demo & construction will begin on a Monday, concrete will pour on a Friday, and we will not have stair access to Wendler Hall for one Sunday. The cost is not to exceed \$15,000. Motion: Jasen Hart 2nd: Julie Vickery Approved: Unanimous

SHEEP Update (Karen Medina)

- May 23, 2019 is the last day of school. Enrollment for upcoming school year is very strong. A school Vision Committee will be formed and they will share their plans and ideas with the church's Strategic Planning Committee. A long-term goal is to add grade levels so that the school will go through 5th grade.

Action Item/Voting Review was performed

Adopted Finance Reports for March and April
 Approved Moving Forward with Legal Proceedings regarding the Wendler Endowment
 Approved Wendler Hall Stair Bid
 Approved Minutes from March and April

Around the Table: (Info/Questions)

- None provided.

Announcements: Next meeting is June 11, 2019

Closing Prayer: Fr. David Read

Adjourn: 8:39 p.m.