

St. Helena's Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes

August 20, 2019

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

Vestry Absent: Chris Godsey, Mark Littlestar & Brian Topper

Clergy: The Rev. David G. Read

Staff/Treasurer: Ron Tribo & Ann Shorter

Visitors: None

Call to Order: 6:33 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Fr. David Read

Minutes: June Minutes approved per edit to add Interior clarification to Historic Sanctuary Doors. Motion: John Howe 2nd: Paul Johnson Approved: Unanimous

Rector's Time

- **Vestry Meeting Bible Study:** To begin our Vestry meeting this day, all Vestry members participated in a mutual invitation bible study focusing on the passage from Luke 10:1-12, and what it meant to us personally and for our Vestry.
- **Organist Search:** Due to Susan Matteson's departure, we are seeking a new organist. Fr. David has contacted the San Antonio chapter of the American Guild of Organists to post a job opening and to spread the word. It may take a while to find a new organist, so in the meantime we will utilize substitutes until we find the right person.
- **Endowment Structure:** We are continuing to work on a legal strategy to gain legal approval to seek the best investment options to yield the highest returns on our endowment while continuing to honor Dr. Wendler's wishes. We hope to have resolution by this Thanksgiving. We will appoint a Board of eight persons with three-year terms to oversee the Wendler Endowment.
- **The Gathering:** On September 8, we will have one service at 10:00 a.m. in Wendler Hall followed by a celebration of retiring the Wendler Hall Mortgage as well as the opportunity to kick-off the new year of ministries.
- **Parking Lot:** Boerne city officials approached SHEC and BISD to seek a monetary contribution to refurbish the corner parking lot across from Wendler Hall, including the re-pavement of the existing lot and lining it with 40 parking spaces. The City will pay the remaining balance. Both SHEC and BISD will contribute \$3,500 and SHEC will receive, in writing, the privilege of Sunday access and access to the parking lot for special church occasions. We may consider posting signage to that effect. Approved by Vestry Consensus.
- **Adding a 2nd Priest:** Typically we have had two priests on staff. The process to find a second priest can take a long time. In Episcopal churches, the assisting clergy works for the Rector with the title, "Assistant to the Rector." Assisting clergy do not succeed the Rector should the Rector depart. The Diocese conducts a background check of potential candidates, and the Rector selects the candidate. Now that the Wendler Hall Mortgage is retired, we have funds to hire an Assistant to the Rector who will most likely be someone out of seminary. As a recent seminary graduate, the person will be a deacon for six months, able to perform most clergy functions except any activity that requires a blessing, i.e. no celebration of the Eucharist or marriage. The Rector handed out a Cost

Analysis on the financial impact a 2nd Priest would have on our budget. This was reviewed. The Vestry agreed to hire an Assistant to the Rector. Motion: John Howe 2nd: Jasen Hart Approved: Unanimous

Senior Warden (Jasen Hart)

- Vestry Hosts – be sure to check all of the collection plates to ensure all monies are counted every Sunday for each service. Also, check locked doors to all buildings from the inside and the outside to ensure the campus is secure before leaving after the last Sunday service.

Subcommittee Meetings/Reports

- **Mission (Cindy Erickson)**
 - The Youth Mission Trip to the Lakota Sioux Reservation in Wounded Knee, SD, Messiah Episcopal Church, was a tremendous success. A fact-finding medical mission team will return to SD on September 6 to assess needs. The fall kick-off of ministries will occur at The Gathering on September 8. We continue to seek assistance with food sign-ups to support the Women’s Shelter. There is an event in September to raise funds for the Hill Country Pregnancy Center.
- **Administration (John Howe, Ron Tribo & Ann Shorter)**
 - We have paid off the Wendler Hall Mortgage and our financials are strong – everything is going well.
 - By Vestry consensus, we ratified the E-ballot to pay-off the Wendler Hall Mortgage.
 - **Finance reports** were reviewed and adopted. Motion: John Howe 2nd: Jasen Hart. Approved: Unanimous.
- **Buildings and Grounds (Jasen Hart for Chris Godsey)**
 - **Interior Historic Sanctuary Doors:** We are receiving bids to replace six custom doors, which will improve the security of the building.

SHEEP Update (Karen Medina)

- **Budget Amended:** The school board amended their budget to provide a small pay increase this coming school year for teachers due to the finding that SHEEP teachers are very underpaid compared to the salaries of comparable Boerne schools. The board seeks to continue with a pay raise over the next two years to become more competitive and plans to offset the higher salaries with more fundraising projects throughout the year and a conservative tuition increase. Even with a tuition increase over the next few years, SHEEP is a tremendous value versus the tuition rates at comparable schools in the area.

Action Item/Voting Review was performed

Approved Parking Lot Contribution
Adopted Finance Reports for July
Ratified E-Ballot to Pay Off Wendler Mortgage
Approved Minutes for July

Around the Table: (Info/Questions)

- Steve Beach requested that a note be made in the Sunday bulletins about the donation opportunity to SHEC through the Smile Amazon program.

Announcements: Next meeting is September 17, 2019

Closing Prayer: Fr. David Read

Adjourn: 8:50 p.m.