

VESTRY MEETING
August 20, 2024
St. John's Episcopal Church – Midland, MI

Members In Attendance: Alissa Anderson, Deb Blackhurst, Eric Carlson, Angela Garcia, Eric Heglin, Sue Rye, Fred Schuster, Paul Tolly. **Members Absent:** Gail Hoffman, Bill Kent. **Guests:** None.
Bill Kent has resigned from the Vestry.

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm.

Growth & Learning

Reverend Alissa passed around cards. Everybody wrote down a prayer request. Alissa then read a passage from Richard Rohr's book "Silent Compassion : Finding God in Contemplation". The cards were then passed back and distributed randomly. The vestry read the prayers one by one.

Business

- Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve by Fred Schuster; seconded by Paul Tolly; passed.
- Consent Agenda: Without objection, declared approved.
- Approval of Minutes for July meeting: Motion to approve by Sue Rye; seconded by Angela Garcia; passed.

Discussion Agenda

- **Second Sunday Sharing 2024:** Review August; "Promoting St. John's in the Community" with presentation by Denee Koonce. September is the Ministry Fair. Setup will be from 3pm to 5pm Saturday in Williams Hall for Sunday Sharing.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Lowell Youngquist touched on the highlights of the July report. As of July 31, Horizon bank had \$108,000 in the checking account. BNY savings is at \$110,000 due to \$76,000 taken out to pay the final roof payment. The revenue for July was pretty close to the predicted budget (Only \$1,300 less than predicted year to date). The salary expenses were \$8,000 above budget because of three pay periods in August. The energy bills were higher in July because of the warmer weather. The parking lot invoice has not been seen yet. It's about \$12,000. The columbarium and the organ revenues are separate and don't count vs. regular contributions, endowments, etc.
- **Sources of Transformation:** College for Congregational Development (CCD) was explained by Deb Blackhurst. Deb, Sara Philo and Ellen McVey attended last year. It gives people tools to work within the congregation to better their church and community life. The CCD uses teaching "models" for topics of discussion. Model examples are Facilitation, Diagnostic, Conflict Resolution, Data Collection, etc. Last year's model was the intervention called "Gather". The 2024 intervention was "Sources of Transformation". Reverend Alissa attended the 2024 CCD. The goal is to deepen the spirituality of the congregation. The Vestry members are to interview three church members using eight prepared questions. Deb would like the Vestry to finish the interviews by the next Vestry meeting.
- **Columbarium Fee Structure:** Eric Carlson pointed out that the fee for one niche is the same for either one or two urns. The cost of a second urn and plaque is \$427. This extra fee is proposed to be added to the columbarium fee if the second urn is added. There was a positive response to this proposal. Eric C. will prepare a motion for the next meeting.

- **Annual Election of Committee Chairs (Bylaw Change):** Eric Carlson proposed a bylaw addition that provides for annual election of committee chairs. Eric C. will draft some language for this. There was positive response during the discussion.
- **Budgeting Note for 2025:** The 2022 annual parochial report was inaccurate and caused the church to pay a much smaller apportionment to the diocese. Due to the transition to the new diocese, the plan is not to increase any parish's apportionment for 2025. However, in 2026 our apportionment will probably rise substantially (maybe \$40,000) to more accurately reflect our income. A budgeting committee is being set up in September to finalize a budget more accurately and on time.

Action Agenda

- Eric Carlson moves to approve the organ contract. Seconded by Angela; passed.
- Eric Carlson moves to pull up to \$80,000 total from two funds (the Vera Griswold "Rainy Day" fund and the Josephine Ashmun fund) for the organ replacement. Seconded by Fred Schuster; passed.
- Eric Carlson moves to continue to have three separate lines for the Samaritan Fund budget, but to allow the Rector to approve and the Bookkeeper to pay charges even if a budget line has been exhausted as long as the total of the three Samaritan Fund lines has not been exceeded. Seconded by Angela Garcia; passed.

Review of Action Items

- Cloister Garden fundraising – **delay to 2025**
- Garden blessing (Alissa) – **delay to 2025**
- Signing the new lease with preschool (Alissa) – **in the consent agenda**
- Continuing discussion with preschool (Alissa) – **August 21, 2024**
- Inform B&G about October SSS (Deb) **done**
- Work with Ellen to get the minutes posted electronically (Eric C) - **Ellen said yes**
- Get notepads together for SSS (Angela) - **done**
- Prepare an announcement regarding SAMS Pantry volunteer coordinator (Angela) **done**
- Prepare the bylaw motion for annual meeting folder (Eric C) **done**
- Communicate with Travis about the organ contract (Alissa) **done**
- Approach finance committee about endowment contributions towards organ (Eric C and Fred) **done**
- Parish survey discussion for next month (Fred) **done**

Summary of New Action Items

- Compose motions on the columbarium fee restructure and the annual election of committee chairs (Eric C)
- Interviews. Send to Alissa (All)

Executive Session

Closing prayer. Motion to adjourn by Angela ; seconded by Paul; passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.