

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Bluemont VA – Meeting Notes

Subject: Virtual Vestry Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020

Attendees: Lois Tapscott, Tim Hall, Josette Keelor, Cindy Ingram, Richard Purnell, Judy Hall, Linda Bailey

Start time: Began about 6:25 p.m. after technical difficulties

Review of minutes from Sept. 24, 2020 meeting

Approved as submitted. Tim asked that we remember to do something as a thank-you for Ralph. Judy said she would contact Westminster-Canterbury for their input and requirements.

Financial Status

Cindy gave the Treasurer's Report: Church income includes \$13,400 in diocese assistance plus one-time gifts. The church has a positive \$19K in net income. Without two gifts, we would only be \$4K in the hole.

Consensus was that, considering 2020, we're doing pretty good and we shouldn't compare 2020 to typical years. Expected income was \$48K. We budgeted for \$36,420 and have so far received \$36,121. Losses came from fewer plate donations, less outreach throughout the year, and AA giving half its usual contributions. Savings came from paying Ralph halftime pay during the summer. Cindy said we're doing better than she thought we would. We spent more on the property than anticipated. Tim asked about facility expenses on the report, which Cindy said doesn't happen every year. She said the balance sheet is maintaining a \$12K balance, which Tim called encouraging.

Getting a part-time priest is within realm of possibilities. We might have more expenses for supply clergy though we're saving on the budgeted vicar's salary.

Judy asked about budget for COVID supplies and if it's under office supplies. Tim said it might not be accounted for yet.

Church Business

We're putting in for \$13,900 this year.

There was discussion of upcoming bishop election which has been pushed to 2021.

Good Shepherd submitted a parish audit on Aug. 8 and never heard back from anyone. Linda said no news is good news. Tim said we made our pledge of 10% for next year and that GS was invited to a meeting looking for input from churches giving 10% or more for a number of years, so it was nice getting the recognition.

Facility Maintenance and Improvements

Judy said Lois was going to contact cleaning companies about services: \$150 for all three rooms, with potential savings by only paying for the basement. An added expense would be getting all rooms cleaned once a month or twice because of COVID. Lois said we've been

doing the basement every week. Tim thought once a month would be fine, since we'll be disinfecting while we're there anyway.

Other recent improvements included grass seeding and cleaning of tree remnants. Tim said he would mow a last time for the fall and that we need to talk about 2021. Lois said we'll need to hire someone to do the gutters and pay for gutter guards, which Richard estimated at \$1,500-\$2,000 and said he'll find out about. The church's floor grate needs updating. Outside maintenance will include a raking and leaf blowing event after the gutter cleaning – maybe mid-November.

Worship and Event planning

The Rev. Debbie Rutter is on board to do quarter time (40 hours a month) for the rest of 2020. Tim suggested mailing her checks. Linda and Tim agreed to keep looking for speakers on alternative Sundays.

Further discussions will include:

- Debbie's availability at ¼ time for 2021
- Inviting of other clergy from the supply list
- Reopening plans
- Outdoor regathering approval – first service held on Sept. 13
- Indoor regathering approved – first service held on Oct. 25
- Need for volunteers to implement DOV guidelines: Cindy will be a backup for Lois on days we meet and need to take temperatures at the welcome table. Everyone said they're willing to do cleaning if needed.
- Virtual worship (and meetings) still available via Zoom.
- Making a 12-month commitment (\$120/year vs. \$15/mo.)?

Discussing website plans, Judy said she secured the bluemontgoodshepherd.org domain with email address and will look into moving over the website. Then we'll drop the Zoom monthly when switch to new email address.

Outreach & Mission 2020

We discussed supporting local seniors, particularly at Commonwealth Senior Living of Berryville when it reopens to visitors. We also decided to do Christmas delivery boxes around Pine Grove.

End time: 7:33 p.m., when we were kicked out of free Zoom meeting a second time.

Agenda items not discussed:

- a) Contact Matt Rhodes on possibility of sharing Christ Church seminarian, Melanie Lewis
- b) Interim Clergy Support
- c) Other thoughts?