

## **Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Bluemont VA - Meeting Notes**

**Subject:** Virtual Vestry Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021

**Attendees:** Rev. Debbie Rutter, Lois Tapscott, Tim Hall, Judy Hall, Josette Keelor, and Richard Purnell

**Start time:** Began at 6:38 p.m. with a devotional for Annunciation

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### **Worship Planning**

Josette gave an update of the 10-week Designing Dynamic Liturgies online class she's auditing through the Dean T. Stevenson School for Ministry. The class's advice is generalized, not specific to or entirely relevant for church services during the pandemic when participants are asked not to sing and cannot participate in other usual ways.

The vestry talked of music, how to get people to sing along while attending Zoom church, and other ways to involve people, such as allowing people to sing different verses. Richard said it's difficult to feel a part of things while muted. A short discussion of Palm Sunday and Holy Week was tabled for when Tim, Judy, Debbie, and Josette planned to meet to record music on the last Friday before Holy Week. The church planned to have its first in-person service since the fall on Easter, assuming new case numbers kept trending down.

### **Clergy Search**

Tim said a letter and resume from Fr. Connor Newland expressed interest in meeting for a "trial" service. Debbie knows him and said he's great. Richard, who's talked with him, gave an overview of his recent relocation with his wife and two kids from the Richmond/Ashland area to Round Hill. He's currently a part-time supply or interim pastor at St. Paul's in Sharpsburg, Maryland, which has about 45 regular parishioners. Newland is interested in church planting and it's hoped he can sign on for one or two Sundays a month and also engage the community and grow our church. Josette suggested 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, since it sounds like he has four Sundays a month in Sharpsburg. Debbie considered that they might be paying into his pension. We plan to invite him for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in May. We can check out Sharpsburg's services through Facebook Live. Our budget for a supply priest is about quarter salary.

## **Facility Update**

Judy is working on the website and an associated email. We're thinking about keeping Zoom going even after returning to in-person Sunday services. Tim talked with Phil the plumber about the bathroom, and Judy suggested installing more lighting outside.

## **Financial Report**

Cindy wasn't here, so Tim and Lois gave updates. The church had a gift of \$2,000 from a couple at the end of 2020, which was added to the building account. A gift of \$1,000 from United Methodist Church in Bluemont came in part because of two big donations to their church that they wanted to share with Good Shepherd. Lois signed an application for a Spectrum Rewards credit card at BB&T/Truist. They would send a card within 10 days for Cindy, the treasurer, but said we could have as many as we need in each person's name. Richard suggested putting the card on autopay to avoid late fees.

## **Miscellaneous**

The vestry approved the minutes from the February Congregational Meeting, except to correct the last paragraph to say the 2021 Scott Grant is for \$3,500. Tim asked us to consider what we're trying to accomplish with future vestry meetings and construct the agenda as required. We scheduled the next meeting for April 15 (the regular third Thursday) with a suggestion of focusing on outreach – such as helping people register for COVID-19 vaccines. Debbie suggested the vestry think about what to do with potential clergy candidates.

Closed with prayer. Adjourned at 7:42 p.m.