

Vestry Minutes 2/25/25

In person: Michael Martin Mills, Lorraine, David C, MMary, Martha, David D, me, Lydia, Gary G, Carolyn, Kelly

On Zoom: Paula, Tom, Chris

In absentia: Andrea, Anne, Garry

The meeting began at 7:05pm. Mother Mary distributed Bible passages relating to nets and fishing, and we read these passages as an opening prayer. Mother Mary asked us to think about our own nets— we might be safety nets for others, for example. We wrote our own names in the center of a page and drew/wrote/listed the people in our nets: close friends, family, pets, people who are no longer with us, people with whom we used to have a closer connection, but that connection has attenuated, etc. Mother Mary asked us to reflect on these nets— e.g. connections we feel have weakened we can try to renew.

A motion was made to approve the January minutes. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

A request was made for meeting materials to be sent out more in advance, and at minimum by the Sunday before the Vestry meeting.

Rector's report: Mother Mary has been involved with more meetings, meet-and-greets at church and Cathedral Village; these have been well attended, with good conversations, each convo different. The last one was the following Thursday; it can be decided to do more or take a break, etc. Mother Mary was also active with the Black History Month Evensong, the Absalom Jones Service, and other events. The parish meeting was well attended. She has decided to move the intended Vestry retreat to September, to avoid the already-busy Lenten & Easter season. Two other retreats scheduled will proceed as scheduled. Rev. Luke did an excellent Safe Church training, had good conversation, better than completing modules online. Rev. Luke will do another one for volunteers. We are somewhat behind on training those who need it (Vestry, greeters, anyone working with children). It's partly become more difficult post-COVID (during which training opportunities fell off and maybe haven't come back to the same degree).

Warden's report: Andrea Fine has resigned from Vestry for health reasons— and has asked for privacy. Really wonderful feedback about the meet and greets, positivity in

general, can see it in the passing of the peace, budget meeting was excellent, conversation about former members who are no longer pledging, how can we reach out and reach in, celebrate the Black History Month forums on Weds, tea & sherry has been lovely and popular, Rev. Luke's crafts gathering has been a great intergenerational group. Gillian Booth has resigned as soprano section leader in choir; Ty will be holding interviews and hopes to have someone by Easter or September at the latest.

Finance Report: (ref. circulated report) Generally on plan in January, strong early pledge payments, some unexpected Buildings & Grounds expenses but on track.

Buildings & Grounds Report: (ref. circulated report) Continued problems with steam & heat are being mitigated and fixed, but we need to move as soon as we can afford it to a more modern HVAC system... which also opens up the opportunity to consider A/C. Necessity in the future for a capital campaign. Planning on organizing tours for parishioners to tour campus and see what conditions are. Organizing volunteer days to e.g. clean things out.

Q was asked, "How can we help?" B&G is trying to identify what tasks/projects are volunteer-ready and prioritize those. Need to rally both those able to donate funds, building stewardship will also help B&G (inextricably linked).

Stewardship Report: (ref. circulated report) Already thinking ahead to 2026, need to identify what we might want to set as goals, so we can begin explaining to the parish what those are. Also want to talk about planned giving (e.g. estate planning).

Vestry Liaison Teams Update: Lydia met with Kate Maus about Community Engagement. They have processed the reduction in contribution well, and equitably. They have a reserve fund that can offset some of the reduction, thinking carefully about how to use that. Two critical things for the future: 5-year survey of the parish to ask about desired priorities. Might want to mine data from Parish Profile and/or Listening Circles. Biggest challenge is volunteering— finding ways to increase the number of people who find a role to step into, can feel actualized through the work of StM. Have a set of 4 priorities that guide their operations. Had a conversation about whether small(er) amount gifts are actually creating positive outcomes... on one hand, the concept of "neighborly gifts" is real and meaningful, but also want to ensure that we are good stewards of that gifting. CE is not just a relationship of writing checks, but also about coming together, donations of time and talent, etc. "This is what we want to do □ this is what we have □ this is what we can do."

Setting of Annual Meeting Date: There was a conversation reviewing the timeline for the Vestry Nominating Committee: it needs to assemble by 8 weeks before the annual meeting. The deadline for name submission is 27 April, and the slate must be published one week later, 4 May. Deadline for petition nominations (after slate is publicized) is 18 May. The Nominating Committee must start by April 6th but can/should start earlier. This year we will be electing 4 people to fill 4-year terms, and 1 person to fill Andrea's remaining 3-year term. There was a motion to set the annual meeting on 1 June. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

There was an idea to put together an annual report distilled from the recently completed Parochial Report to go out to the parish. This led to a related idea of re-posting the Parish Profile (in all or in part) on our website as a resource and reflection (it could even be useful to newcomers and prospective parishioners).

The Vestry voted on, or had conversations about voting on:

- The recently completed Parochial Report. A motion to approve was seconded and passed unanimously.
- Housing allowances. We identified a need to ask expert advice on how these are normally done or should be done. We opted to table this topic until we've gotten that clarification.
- Skip Lynch's estate. There was a suggestion to put his bequest into the capital improvement fund (CIF). The Vestry resolved to write a letter of thanks for his gift, saying we think it would best honor him to go to capital fund. A motion was therefore made to thank his family for the gift, and to direct it to CIF. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Reminders that this Sunday we'll be honoring Rush & Pat Smith with the Polly Randall Award. Tuesday night is the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

There was a suggestion to formalize the (currently ad hoc) committee for the Polly Randall Award. There was a motion to ask Jim Fairburn to write the inscriptions in calligraphy. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

Signers were changed to Mary Barber and Tom Sibson for the PNC Bank Accounts for St. Martin's. A motion put forward, seconded and unanimously approved.

New signers -

- Rev. Dr. Mary Barber, Rector
- Thomas Sibson, Accounting Warden

Mother Mary led us in a closing prayer. The meeting concluded at 8:28pm.