

In person: Carolyn, Dani, Lorraine, Anthony, Mother Mary, Rich, Paula, Kelly, Victoria, Rob, Michael, David Collins

On Zoom: Gary Glazer, Chris, Tom, Garry Duncan, Lydia, Martha

In absentia: David Dieck, Anne

The meeting convened at 7:04pm. Mother Mary introduced the topic that has come up at previous meetings regarding the signs on the front lawn, and potential controversy (and/or questions) regarding them. To help with further discussion, Mother Mary shared with us "Guidelines for Effective Cross-Cultural Dialogue". Mother Mary talked through each point and elaborated on what it meant and how it should work in practice. We broke into pairs/ small groups and discussed how we felt about these guidelines, and then we shared together as one group.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the May meeting; it was seconded and unanimously approved.

**Rector's Report:** Mother Mary has continued to have many meetings, including an Episcopal Divinity Board meeting. A celebration of new ministry, Mother Mary's installation, is planned for 8 Nov (the day before St. Martin's Day). The Annual Meeting was awesome, people stayed through the meeting, were engaged, and stayed afterwards for conversation. The Guatemala ministry members are now in Guatemala. St. Martin's is helping to sponsor an Afghan family. Pride Evensong was awesome.

Mother Mary welcomed the new Vestry members, and thanked the outgoing Vestry members. A retreat is planned for September, tentatively 13<sup>th</sup> (Sat), probably a half-day in the morning, and probably off campus at St. Paul's. Architect invoices/contract: we are closing in on paying what's due. There's about \$23k left to pay... we have come a long way to closing that gap. The architect is asking us to sign a contract, which needs Vestry approval (Clerk signs on Vestry behalf)... Mother Mary is working with him on a contract that reflects the current situation and relationship. Several suggestions were made on how to proceed, including getting someone independent (e.g. hire an attorney) to look over the contract and help us figure out what should be happening now and next. Once we go to the next phase of the project, this attorney would thus be familiar with the work. The Vestry was interested in having the architect come to a Vestry meeting to hear where he's coming from. There was also a strong desire to look at our governance policies, to try to prevent winding up in a similar

situation again. After conversation, the plan is to first have just the executive committee meet with him, then have a subsequent meeting with the full Vestry.

A motion was made to move forward on hiring attorney; it was seconded and unanimously approved. Vestry will get the names of at least three potential counsel people, and have the executive committee make the decision. Suggestions are to be sent to Mother Mary before 9 July.

**Acting Rector's Warden Report:** Martha gave heartfelt thanks to those rotating off Vestry, and a heartfelt welcome to new members.

**Priest Associate's Report (Reverend Luke):** They began by expressing gratitude to be at StM. They knew from the start that this was a parish that really cared about intergenerational ministry and youth. Reverend Luke began their work with listening, information gathering as to what was on our hearts and minds, to better understand how the Holy Spirit has been moving through this congregation. Starting with 9am service, Reverend Luke has been working collaboratively with Ty and the music staff. Another focus has been Wednesday night dinners— what it used to be, what it could be. They've been working on how to bring back youth (not just into service but into all of parish life). Reverend Luke observed that aspects of St. Martin's have formed into a shape that unintentionally excludes youth, so there is a need to breakdown silos, open things up again. They have led experiments in the realm of "Quakerpalianism", and spirituality as play. They leveraged the beloved Christmas Pageant by trying an Easter Pageant, which was very well received. Safe Church has also been really important. Providing a structure in which all people are treated with respect (not just about preventing child abuse, though that is an essential component), creating norms and practices that help us live into who and what we want to be. As society demonstrates how little it cares about how people are treated, part of our Christian witness is in Safe Church. Reverend Luke developed their own interactive in-person training, and this has become really important to them; it was developed with St. Martin's in mind but also worked well when St. Timothy's was here. Reverend Luke noted that, as part of Diocesan policies, whatever process is developed and adopted by the church has to be approved by the Vestry and posted in the minutes. There was a desire to dedicate part of the upcoming retreat to that training. Vacation Bible School went to St Paul's, and has become a collaboration with two other parishes in the Diocese. It's been a great opportunity to connect kids of different ages.

**Immigration update:** Chris Satullo attended an urgent and timely talk about the pivotal role of immigrants in our economy and society, and the rapid deterioration of the infrastructure supporting immigrants. Many ideas were developed (ca. 30) for what both individuals and groups can do; those ideas were analyzed vis-à-vis the effort involved, their level of impact, etc. Refugee Resettlement (RR) has collated these ideas and assembled a list that Chris showed the Vestry for feedback and direction. Since those meetings, an Afghan family has arrived, and RR has been absorbed in helping with that. Chris shared RR's list of top priorities: One idea is accompanying immigrants to hearings, trials, etc., which might tap into a similar energy from not long ago in getting trained to accompany women to health care visits. There was interest in organizing a forum to talk about how to approach this from a faith-based perspective. The Diocese and the national church have issued statements, which we could share to provide guidance to parish and to this ministry. There was a feeling that this work needs to come from the ground up, not the top down. There was discussion of whether Vestry should formally adopt this or a similar statement for St. Martin's. Reverend Luke and Mother Mary have been attending a multi-faith group, and hearing from people who have been witnessing in this context. We should consider doing more interfaith work because Jewish and Muslim groups may be feeling especially vulnerable. Vestry decided to vote and/or rank these ideas at a future meeting, and brainstorm additional ideas as needed.

**Finance (see disseminated report):** We are essentially on budget.

**135<sup>th</sup> Art Fair & Festival:** A meeting was held recently with 13 people on the committee. Lydia and Cathy Glazer are heading up the pre-party committee (the pre-party will be the night before the fair/auction). Vestry was asked to contribute ideas on things to do or additions to that night. The Fair is now planned for the weekend of 10-12 October. 12 October is also Chestnut Hill's art fair, so we can leverage that. The committee is looking into having a shuttle to move people back and forth between these events. Vestry members are asked to attend the pre-party and to bring someone not from the St. Martin's community. The Fair part will happen after church until ~2pm with a food truck. The themes are celebration and community (and fundraising). Donations will start in Sept-Oct, and there will be a call for artists as well. A suggestion was made to look into childcare for the pre-event. Many thanks to Michael Martin Mills for a large donation of art, and to Ty and Sean, who are donating lots of time and talent to this event.

Mother Mary led us in a closing prayer. The meeting concluded at 9:00pm.