

St. Martin in the Fields
Vestry Meeting Summary
April 23, 2024
Hybrid Meeting

In person: The Rev. Laura Palmer, David Collins, David Dieck, Jim Fairburn, Carolyn Green, Rob Jennings, Emily Law, Michael Martin Mills, Barbara Thomson, Paula Wineland

Via Zoom: Tom Sibson

Absent: Carol Horne Penn, Lydia Ogden

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM EST. Laura celebrated the Eucharist.

The Minutes and Summary Minutes of the April 2 meeting were approved.

Priest Report

- Laura reported that Reed and Britta Carlson have both accepted positions at the University of the South (Sewanee) in Sewanee, Tennessee. They will be relocating in the summer, which means that Britta's temporary position will end about a month sooner than planned.
- Tom Sibson has let Laura know he will continue as the Accounting Warden for 1 more year.
- The Wednesday noon Eucharist will be resuming on May 1.
- Planning for the 135th anniversary of St Martin's begin soon and that chairpersons for this celebration be named so that the celebration may happen in November 2024.

Debrief of Vestry Retreat

- There was very positive feedback from the retreat held on Saturday, April 20. The Rev. Dr Pamela Cooper White did an excellent job of focusing the discussion toward a variety of long-term goals.
- It was suggested that member engagement through listening circles would be a great way to get started.

Rector's Warden Report (Barbara Thomson):

Planning for the Annual Meeting.

- The annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 9, after the 10:30 service. The meeting will focus on a presentation of the Parish Parochial Report, a discussion of the

achievements of the Parish over the past year, as well as future tactical plans. The slate of new Vestry members will be voted on at the meeting.

Size of the Vestry

- It has been suggested that consideration be given to reducing the size of the Vestry from 16 to 12 persons. Many churches in the diocese—St Paul's, St Thomas Whitemarsh, Old Christ Church—have 12-person vestries. We are bound by the bylaws to a 16-person Vestry. A brief discussion ensued, but this will need to be considered more fully at a later time. (See bylaw amendments below.)

Discernment Process

- The Vestry has unanimously approved and accepted the Parish Profile (via online vote) as well as the OTM (which was unanimously approved by those present at this meeting), both of which will now be submitted to the Diocese for approval. Bud Holland will be consulted for the best way to get this information to the Diocese.

Stewardship (David Dieck)

- amount of pledges has remained pretty much the same as previously reported. Efforts continue to approach parishioners about renewing/increasing pledges.

Building and Grounds (David Dieck)

- Proposals have been received to remove the two gigantic spruce trees bordering the columbarium sidewalk and the oakleaf hydrangeas in the area of the columbarium, which have become invasive. Those around the foundation of the church have made the foundation vulnerable to water damage and are also degrading the stonework in one section. The vestry approved these actions.
- Emergency re-pointing of some sections of the church are needed. No decision was made regarding a move forward with this repair.

Finance (Tom Sibson)

- The reduced level of revenue and pledging is concerning as the year progresses. We need to be vigilant about expenditures vis-à-vis revenue.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. at Hilary House
Supper will precede the meeting at 6:30.**