

St. Martin in the Fields
Vestry Meeting Summary
February 27, 2024
Hybrid Meeting

In person: Rev. Laura Palmer, David Collings, David Dieck, Jim Fairburn, Carolyn Green, Carol Horne Penn, Rob Jennings, Emily Law, Michael Martin Mills, Lydia Ogden, Tom Sibson, Barbara Thomson, Lorraine Webb, Paula Wineland,
By Zoom: Katie Bergstrom, Del Bright
Absent: Cassie Houtz

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM EST. Barbara Thomson prayed the meeting in.
2. The minutes and summary of the January Vestry meeting were approved with minor edits.
3. The Vestry enthusiastically welcomed Reverend Laura as our full-time priest starting March 1, 2024.
4. Status of the Parish Profile – Rob Jennings
 - The Profile is now in design stage.
 - The Vestry should expect to receive the draft for approval by either the end of next week (March 8) or early the following week (March 10).
 - There will be a 1-week turn-around time for review and concurrence. A special session of the Vestry will be scheduled to discuss and approve. Rob will advise the Executive Committee regarding the timing of that session.
 - Action: A suggestion was made and agreed to hold an Adult Forum on the Parish Profile following Vestry and Diocesan approval. Michael Mills will look for possible dates following approval from the diocese.
5. Stewardship – David Dieck
 - Currently 182 households have pledged for 2024, totaling approximately \$540,000 pledged with an additional \$6,000 on auto-draft but no pledge. This is \$60,000 under goal. The Stewardship Committee is looking at leveraging directed and planned giving to close the gap.
 - Action: David requested that all Vestry members look for opportunities to inform fellow parishioners about the importance of pledging and to raise enthusiasm about the life of our beloved community.
6. Buildings and Grounds – David Dieck
 - The committee has prioritized two immediate needs: 1) pine trees hazarding the Church to be taken down and repairs to slate sidewalks (safety concern); 2) upgrades to the Parish Hall such as HVAC. The first is within the remit of the Walton Fund.

- Rev. Laura noted that the St. Martin window is a Tiffany window and “the soul of the parish.” It is irreplaceable. As are the historic buildings. The trees threaten these irreplaceable structures.
 - Action: The Vestry endorsed moving to address the trees and sidewalks, following discussion with the Climate Action Team to discuss what might be done with the trees once removed and how they might be replaced.
7. Priest report – Rev. Laura
- In early June, a member of the Woodward family will have a funeral at the church.
 - Action: The Vestry endorsed asking the family if they would like to make a bequest to honor her by naming a room – e.g., the Parish Hall – after her.
8. Vestry Retreat and Annual Meeting Date – Michael Mills
- Bylaws require an Annual Meeting to be held between April 15 and June 15 yearly. At that meeting, new Vestry members will be elected. The outgoing Vestry members are responsible for working with the Executive Committee to present a draft slate to the full Vestry for approval prior to being presented to the parish for a vote. Term-limited outgoing members are: Jim Fairburn, Carol Horne Penn, Emily Law, and Tom Sibson. Additionally, Cassie Houtz (resigned) will need to be replaced.
 - Vestry retreat needs to occur prior to Annual Meeting. Proposed dates in April: 13, 14, 20, 21.
 - Actions: Both meetings need to be planned and executed.
9. Finance – Tom Sibson
- STM received a bequest of \$10,000 in December, and the Finance Committee recommends allocating all of this to the Capital Improvements Fund. The Vestry endorsed this.
 - Kate Maus gifted the church a baby grand piano.
 - Action: Tom recommended the piano should be appraised and to provide that information to Kate for tax purposes, along with our thanks. This will be actioned by the Executive Committee.
10. The Vestry entered Executive Session to discuss the status and process for the search for a new rector.
11. Del Bright led the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM EST.

Next meeting: April 2 in the Parish Hall.