

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Minutes of Vestry Meeting
March 12, 2022

Members present: Fr. Lance Robbins, Pauline Stebbins. Diane Babcock, Ed Kushall, Cheri Mascitti, Art Mason, Pam Meyris, Peter Rothfuss, Kathy Stokes, Bruce Dunn

Members absent:

Rev. Barbara Fornalik

Wayne Delperdange

Don White

Agenda for Vestry Retreat

1. Meet and greet

Pair up and find out the following with your partner:

1. What brought you to Good Shepherd?
2. What expectations do you have for Vestry work?

2. Background of Diocese

1. Canon Law and Constitution
2. Bishop Search
3. Standing committee and counsel
4. Delegates
5. Set up like US Constitution

3. Vestry members mailboxes, keys, etc.

4. Recruiting for future

5. Legal responsibilities

6. Review Mission Statement

7. Review By-laws for future updating

8. Safe Church

9. Building Update

The meeting started with a prayer by Father Lance followed by a meet and greet. Instead of breaking off in pairs the group decided to stay together and go around the table and introduce ourselves and to also share what brought them to Good Shepherd and what our expectations were for Vestry. Everyone seemed to enjoy getting to know the other members and sharing their stories.

Father Lance provided a thorough background of the Episcopal Diocese, Canon Law and Constitution, and standing committees and counsel. The Episcopal Church's official name is The Democratic and Foreign Missionary Society of the United States.

Father Lance also discussed the responsibilities of a vestry. The vestry is the governing body of the church and was originally set up like the US Constitution with many of the same Democratic processes. The by-laws for the Good Shepherd Vestry have not been updated recently. This is something we should consider doing very soon

The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester now has a provisional Bishop due Bishop Singh leaving. Bishop Steve Lane is currently serving as the provisional bishop. Father went over the process that will be put in place to search for our new bishop. This is a very detailed process and a Search Committee will be formed. The process is expected to take 2 years. The diocese will look nationally for our new bishop. The Search Committee will bring forward 7-8 people and they will visit our diocese. Interviews will take place along with church visits. The bishop will be voted on at convention and the delegates will cast their votes for the new bishop. We have 3 delegates to convention. Our diocese has 45 churches in it. Good Shepherd's delegates are Julie Syracuse-General Convention, Lisa Dunn and Marj Matzky.

Each Good Shepherd Vestry has their own mailbox in the copier room. Please let Lance know if you need a key for that office.

Father Lance would like the members to review our current Mission Statement. It is an adequate statement but he feels it could be changed. Maybe we could do a comparison to some of the other churches in our diocese and update ours soon.

Discussion followed.

1. Develop Goals and Objectives. Consider yearly goals and long-term goals.
2. How can we reach out to people for the purpose of increasing our membership?
 - A. Reach out to the new Episcopal housing on Route 250 and new townhouse development behind the church.
 - a. Develop a brochure
 - B. Welcoming Committee-Diane, Cheri and Pete will meet regarding this and report back to vestry.
3. Vision-Where do we see our church going?
 - A. What is critical?
 - Building
 - Loss of parishioners
 - Set our expectations

The By-Laws have not been updated since 1983. Updating of this document must be done soon. Father Lance handed out copies of the by-laws. Please review and be ready to discuss at our next meeting.

The Sexton report has been put in everyone's mailbox.

Bruce presented the Finance Report. Nothing has changed since last month's report. We are still solvent. Some members are submitting their yearly pledges all at one time. The Diocese has given all churches \$500 from a grant that they received. That money was put into the Capital Improvement fund. Thank you, Bruce, for your reporting. Cheri M. moved to accept the Finance Report. Pete R. seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

Diane and Pauline have volunteered to update information for the Columbarium.

The meeting ended in prayer.

Submitted by Pamela Meyris

