

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Vestry Meeting**  
**August 16, 2021**

**Present:** K. Lewis+ - Rector, J. Baker, J. Bryce, D. Clark, G. Crabtree, S. Henderson, J. Irwin, S. Leduc, M. Schulte, S. Boron - Secretary

**Absent:** M. Hart, M. McKee, D. Parks, G. Sutton.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by K. Lewis+ at 6:33 pm. Devotions were given by M. Schulte.

**Agenda additions**

- K. Lewis+ added to Action Items – Bid for flooring in the apartment and payment for the AV tech. Under discussion items add Ice Cream Sundae Sunday on Sept. 19.

M. Schulte moved to accept additions to the agenda. Support by J. Bryce. Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda:**

- Minutes for June 21, 2021 Vestry Meeting
- Treasurer's Reports – June 2021 and July 2021 (Handouts #1 and #2)

M. Schulte moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Support by D. Clark. Motion Carried.

**Correspondence and Clergy Report:** K. Lewis+

- A new sexton / custodian, Chad Albers, has been hired.
  - The condition of the bells for the Hand Bell Choir was discussed. Due to recent water in the basement, they are in need of refurbishing. The water in the basement was due to heavy rain. The situation is being investigated.
  - Use and stocking of the Blessing Box was discussed.
  - The stained glass windows in the Narthex have been refurbished and installed.
  - Organ repairs are not complete due to new wiring needs. Installation should be complete later this week.
  - A Music Scholarship was given to Anya Baldus in appreciation for her musical talents and work with the summer Sunday School program.
  - K. Lewis+ will no longer teach Fresh Start for the Diocese of Michigan.
  - Problems with the operation of the elevator have occurred. It is 25 years old and it is predicted that within 5 years the elevator will need to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$100,000. Future action needs to be considered.
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- **Discussion Items:**

- Sunday School Director- K. Lewis+ will interview Barbara Heany for the position of Sunday School Director this week. J. Baker volunteer to assist as a substitute as needed.
- Fall Pledge Drive - Rev. Dr. Dick Hamlin is a nationally known stewardship expert. K. Lewis+ has contacted him about the option of a yearlong stewardship education program beginning with this fall pledge drive as a consultant with St. Paul's. Attitudes about stewardship have undergone a cultural change. Churches need to explore new methods for stewardship. Currently the percentage of those pledging at St. Paul's is declining and below the national average. K. Lewis+ asked the vestry if they would support her hiring D. Hamlin for paid year long stewardship education program. Funds would come from the unrestricted Sanders Fund. The vestry consented for K. Lewis+ to continue the stewardship discussion with D. Hamlin.
- Transitions Sunday October 3rd - Transitions of losses and welcomes will be the focus. Eight parishioners have died, several have moved, there have been two marriages and a baby born. K. Lewis+ requested volunteers to assist with the planning of the event. S. Leduc and M. Schulte volunteered.
- Website – The vestry was asked to review the website. All participated in a discussion about what needs to be changed, updated, and emphasized on the website. Discussion covered changes in design, format, menus, accessibility, updating of information and photos, reducing the amount of text, fellowship, and information for new comers. Step one for revision is to determine the theme - what we want the website to convey, i.e. focus on God and Jesus. Second step is to determine how to implement the revision by hiring a professional. Lastly comes web design and details. S. Henderson's daughter-in-law designs web sites professionally. S. Henderson will ask her if she is interested or can recommend a professional to assist us.
- Status of church morale – Every Episcopal Church is struggling with attendance. There is a lack of volunteers or willingness to do anything. The pandemic has affected St. Paul's internally. Our anchor is gone, like there is no dock to tie to. It is necessary that we look to the future and become a hybrid church. We need to step back, look at ourselves and become a community again. K. Lewis+ will be sending a letter to the congregation. A congregational meeting will take place in November.
- Ministry Teams Support – (Handout #3) Proposed Ministry Teams were reviewed as explained on the handout. It is time to plan for the future. Everyone on vestry needs to participate. Please read and pray about future ministry teams:
  - Social Justice & Racism
  - Digital Space Ministry
  - Facilities Ministry – Bob M
  - Christian Formation
  - Community Arts Ministry
  - Prayer and Pastoral Care
  - Community Arts Ministry

- Ice Cream Sundae Sunday on September 19 will begin with ice cream at St. Paul's for the congregation and followed by taking ice cream and sack lunches to the homeless at a local city park. The vestry will be the team to organize and deliver this Sundae Sunday welcome to the congregation and the homeless.

#### **Action Items:**

- Approval of 2022 Apportionment Pledge to the Diocese of Michigan. The Diocese of Michigan anticipated a 5.5% increase in their budget. St. Paul's apportionment is \$38665. **J. Irwin moved that St. Paul's pay the full apportionment amount of \$38,665.** Support by G. Crabtree. The motion carried.
- October Vestry Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> - K. Lewis+ will be on a trip. Options for the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting are to meet with Sr. Warden in charge or to move the meeting to October 11<sup>th</sup>. By consensus, the meeting will be moved to October 11.
- Flooring in the apartment - The kitchen floor and apartment carpet are worn out. Bids from Carpet Studio and Pro Floor Source were distributed. (Handout #4) After discussion, **M. Schulte moved to accept the \$2708.00 bid from Pro Floor Source.** Support by S. LeDuc. Motion carried.
- AV Tech – The current Tech payment is \$15/hour from the operating budget. D. Parks is training the Tech and over see his work. **J. Irwin moved to pay the AV Tech \$15 per hour from the Sander Fund.** Support by M. Schulte. Motion carried
- Sunday School director– K. Lewis+ proposed paying the Sunday School Director \$25 hour from Shawver Fund for about 4 hours a week. **S. LeDuc moved to pay the Sunday School \$25 per hour from the Shawver Fund.** Support by J. Bryce. Motion carried.
- There was a conversation about restricted funds as well as discussion about Bylaws which need to be in compliance with diocesan canons.

**Adjournment & Closing Prayer** – J. Bryce moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm. Support by M. Schulte. Motion carried.

Next Vestry Meeting – September 20, 2021 Opening Devotions by S. LeDuc.

Respectively Submitted by

Sarah J. Boron, Secretary