

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Meeting**  
**May 17, 2021**

**Present:** K. Lewis+, J. Baker, J. Bryce, D. Clark, G. Crabtree, M. Hart, S. Henderson, J. Irwin, S. LeDuc, M. McKee, D. Parks, G. Sutton, S. Boron – Secretary.

**Absent:** M. Schulte

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6.37 pm by K. Lewis+. Opening prayer was given by J. Irwin.

**Consent agenda:**

- Minutes for April 19, 2021 Vestry Meeting & May 8, 2021 Retreat
- Treasurer's Report (Handout #1)
- Ministry Reports – Facilities Ministry (Handout #2)
- Addition to agenda: acceptance of two email motions to current minutes. S. LeDuc moved the acceptance of the addition to the consent agenda. Support by M. Hart. Motion Carried.

D. Clark moved to accept the consent agenda with additions. Support by G. Crabtree. Motion carried.

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

- Confirmation classes continue with the Wortley family. Confirmation will be outdoors June 26 at St. Michaels.
- K. Lewis+ spent 2 days attending a Rob Bell workshop – “How to communicate in a post pandemic world.” She has participated in various workshops and webinars including one with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.
- Reentry to working in the office has begun at 2 days a week.
- New sod has been installed in the front yard, sprinklers are operating, and grass is being mowed.
- A new job description for a sexton has been developed and an applicant will be interviewed this week.
- A new cleaning company has been hired and will continue on a weekly basis.
- B. Merriman continues to monitor St. Paul's facilities, including windows, gutters and other needed tasks.
- All new vestry members need to register and complete the Safe Church training course on line which is currently free. New members will also need to sign the DOM policy document.

**Discussion Items:**

- Tim Flynn's ordination will be June 22; 7 pm at St. Paul's pending approval by standing committee. The people of St. Paul's contributed to a gift card of \$750 for T. Flynn. It



has been determined the necessary internet connection will make it possible to live stream the service or to record and post the service. Volunteers to help at the event.

- Transitional Mission Statement – A draft mission statement was distributed. (Handout #3) A Mission statement is the guidepost for all decisions that will be made in the coming months. The term hybrid is defined as meaning both on line and in person functions. Ministries that stopped during the pandemic were reviewed. After discussion and revisions, **D. Parks move to accept the Transitional Mission Statement. Support by M. Hart. Motion carried. (Handout #4)**
- Children and Youth Ministry in fall – A youth coordinator is needed. Population of Sunday school includes no high school students, 3 middle school, 7 elementary school and 8 pre- school. The goal is to resume Sunday school this fall. The Schawver Fund will support the expense of hiring a youth coordinator at 10 to 20 hours per week. Vestry group consensus approved support for K. Lewis+ to meeting with parents, determine what is needed to meet the needs of our children, and pursue a plan.

#### Action Items:

- Return to in-person worship – K. Lewis+ suggested June 6 as the first of continuing in-person worship. Services would be like the Easter service with the possibility of vaccinated in choir members singing with masks on. There will be no nursery or coffee hour. Reservations will continue. If there is another covid surge, the option to take a break from services can be resumed. **D. Parks moved that in-person worship begin on June 6 and continue weekly. Support by J. Bryce. Motion carried.**
- Sunday service schedule – June services will take place in the sanctuary. July and August will be in the Merrifield Room. There will be only one service at 9 am. Live streaming or recording live services will be explored.
- Vestry phone calls – People appreciated getting vestry phone calls. Calls will resume. New lists will be distributed by K. Lewis+.
- There were two emails motions that passed with a majority of votes:
  - A bid from Ayers for \$5113.95 to fix water leaking into basement of the music wing with the funds to come from the “Building and Maintenance” line from our budget. (Handout # 5)
  - A bid to replace toilets in the men and women Restrooms in the Parish Office wing as well as the toilet across from the apartment, and that these funds come the building and maintenance line item in the budget. (Handout # 6)
  - **G. Sutton moved to add the acceptance of both motions be added to the current minutes. Support by G. Crabtree. Motion carried.**

#### Transition to Hybrid Church:

- K. Lewis+ introduced the following 4 questions and requested vestry members ponder each, write a response, and respond K. Lewis+ by May 28:
  - How do you characterize our online identity?
  - What are we seeking to convey through online worship?
  - Who are we trying to reach with our online worship?
  - Anything unique about our online worship?



- Design Digital Space Task Force – D. Parks and K. Lewis+ need volunteers to join them in investigating a plan for future digital space and to explore the possibility of hiring someone to assist.

**Letter regarding St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Detroit:**

- K. Lewis+ read a letter to all churches from Bishop Perry (Handout #7) St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church was the first Episcopal congregation established by African Americans on the west side of Detroit. The church will close with a celebratory service on September 12, 2021 at 2 pm. K. Lewis+ will send a letter of support and prayers to St. Cyprian's on behalf of St. Paul's.

**Adjournment & Closing Prayer:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Next Vestry meeting – **June 21, 2021** Opening devotions – Susan Henderson.

Respectively submitted by  
Sarah J. Boron, Secretary

Handout #4

## **Transition Mission Statement**

Nurture St. Paul's Community of Christ as we embrace the changes in our transitioning world.

We will know we are doing this during the next twelve months as we:

- Foster our welcoming, inclusive, open and safe community values
- Discover how to be the best hybrid Community of Christ possible
- Open our arms to embrace all who connect with us virtually or in-person
- Create and/or expand ministries to care for our community and surrounding area while leading us into the future
- Forgive ourselves when we mess up during this challenging time