

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 – In Person**

Present: K. Lewis+ Rector, J. Baker, J. Bryce, D. Clark, G. Crabtree, L. Hall, S. Henderson, P. Kessler, S. Leduc, D. Parks, M. Wawro, S. Boron – Secretary

Absent: J. Irwin, M. McKee

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by K. Lewis+ at 6:31 pm. Devotions were given by J. Bryce.

Additions to the Agenda:

- Summary of State election wide proposals – Handout #5
- Bids from Xtreme Mason Contractors LLC. – Handout #4
- Expense for music baroque group.

P. Kessler moved to approve the additions to the agenda. Support by J. Bryce. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes from August 16, 2022 Vestry meeting
- Treasurer's Report from August 21, 2022 – Handout #1
- Facilities report – Handout #2

P. Kessler moved to accept the consent agenda. Support by D. Parks. Motion carried.

Correspondence and clergy report:

- Thank you note from Lansing Area Aids Network for the burial service of ashes of two persons was received and shared.
- K. Lewis+ attended installation at Christ United, DeWitt of their new clergy.
- A civil marriage will be blessed Sunday, September 25 between a Christian and a Jew.
- K. Lewis+ has joined the Greater Lansing Area Interfaith Clergy Association. Members include clergy of different faiths: Christian and non-Christian.
- Four C Parking Lot committee met this morning. In August 2024 the churches will own the parking lot. Documentation and permission for ownership will be needed from the Diocese of Michigan. St. Paul's yearly share is \$5000 a year to the state of Michigan. That payment will end August 2024.
- The first meeting for Christians against Christian Nationalism was last week. Feedback reviewed by those in attendance was positive. All agreed that this is a crucial issue.
- Attendance for Sunday service yesterday (56) was not enough to sustain a church of our size. While several who have been absent returned, only one new person was present. That person attended on line services and is looking for a safe place to worship.
- Staff is adjusting to being back to full time work and feeling overwhelmed.
- K. Lewis+ will have some time on retreat October 10 – 13.

Discussion Items:

- Status of Welcome Video and Social Justice group:
 - Welcome Video – D. Parks reviewed Handout #3. Input was requested. Suggestions included more use of social media, especially St. Paul's Facebook page and U Tube videos, need videos to be short and to the point, video could include "frozen" people and then someone speaks, and use a team approach.
- Safe Church training status: All vestry persons must take this class to insure the church's our insurance coverage. Discussion covered difficulties of accessing the training modules. Solutions were given.
- 2023 Pledge Campaign status: The theme for the pledge drive is "Standing on Holy Ground". A small jar containing dirt from the Holy Land will be given to the congregation. There will be five Sundays of personal testimonials. November 6th will be the in gathering of pledge cards.

- Those going off vestry are the committee to recruit Vestry members for election at the January Annual Meeting. Discussion of possible persons followed. Candidates are needed by the December Vestry meeting.
- Structural Report and next steps: 80 exterior bricks are crumbling and are needed to be replaced. Left over bricks from the wall reconstruction are available for the organ area repair and do not match exterior bricks.

Action Items:

- Bids from Extreme Mason Contractors LLC: Handout # 4
 - The repair bid for the west organ chamber is \$43,000. Expense is due to high labor expense and the need to protect the organ while completing the repairs. After discussion P. Kressler moved to accept the bid from Extreme Mason contractors for \$43,000. Support by S. LeDuc. S. LeDuc made a friendly amendment: "to be funded by the Sander Memorial Fund". P. Kressler accepted the friendly amendment with support from S. LeDuc. Motion carried.
 - The repair bid for the parish house south stair well water leak is \$15,560. P. Kressler moved to accept the bid from Extreme Mason Contractors LLC for \$15,560 to be funded by the Sellers Memorial Fund. Support by L. Hall. Motion carried.
- *Echoing Air*, an English Baroque music group: This concert will be later this season and financed by St. Paul's. D. Parks moved to support the concert up to \$4000 from the Shawver Fund. Support by S. LeDuc. Motion carried.
- *Lansing Symphony Orchestra*: A concert is scheduled for February 5, 2023 at St. Paul's
- Social Justice Group: G. Crabtree presented Summary of 2022 statewide Ballot Proposals, Handout # 5. Discussion included: adding the consequences of each proposal's wording if it is implemented or not implemented, include the impact of each proposal, use bullets to facility readability. G. Crabtree will revise and email revisions to the vestry. Discussion also included how to circulate the document. Suggestion included: St. Paul's Sunday bulletin, post on St. Paul's Facebook page, distribute to other churches and clergy.
- Scared Ground group: A second group will begin in January. Current participants have experienced surprising awakening to past treatment of many groups referred to as the other. Current participants report positive personal growth and recommend others participate in the next and future groups. In November there will be a Grateful Gathering dinner rather than Harvest Home dinner at Thanksgiving time. This change is being implemented as a consequence of Scared Ground awareness and exploration. Guests and presenters from the Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center (for indigenous peoples) will be in attendance.
- Silver Bells: Staff has decided not to have a music program. Volunteers will distribute popcorn and hot chocolate in front of St. Paul's organized by D. Parks.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer: The meeting was at 8.28pm with prayer by K. Lewis+.

Respectfully submitted
Sarah J. Boron

Upcoming Events

October 17th Vestry – devotions – S. LeDuc