

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting – In Person
November 21, 2022**

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

Absent: M. McKee

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by K.+ at 6:29pm. Devotions were given by K. Lewis+.

Additions to Agenda:

- Re-purpose a restricted fund
- Online attendance numbers
- Phone calls
- Mission and Outreach expenditures

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes for October 16, 2022 Vestry Meeting
- Treasurer's Report for October 31, 2022 – Handout #1
- S. LeDuc moved to accept the consent agenda with additions to the agenda. Support by D. Parks. Motion carried.

Correspondence & Clergy Report – K. Lewis+

- Why aren't people coming back? - Handout #3
- Article on Canterbury MSU – Handout #4: Page 4 credits to St. Paul's assistance to Canterbury MSU.
- Received a contact from Channel 10 reporter regarding recent gun violence.
- The Laurion family sent a letter and a memorial gift to be divided between the Memorial Garden and Altar Flowers. The gift will be divided between the two and used when there are no altar flower donations.
- Diocesan convention was completed in October.
- K. Lewis+ and Greg Wortley are both now on Diocesan Council with K. Lewis+ also being on the executive committee.
- Pastoral Care needs have increased.

Discussion Items:

- Status of Welcome Video and Social Justice groups:
 - Welcome group is the same planning and recording testimonials.
 - Social Justice has met. There were 526 views on the posting of the ballot proposal document. The group plans to contact the diocese about possibly establishing contact with the Michigan Legislature. In the past the Diocese of Michigan had a representative who was in contact with the legislature.
- Safe Church training status: Training will be held on December 17 at St. Paul's. Vestry persons and others who have not completed the training will be required to attend.
- 2023 Pledge campaign status/thank notes: Vestry members will write thank you notes to those who have filed their pledge cards. 69 replied in 2021 with a total of \$272,000. 55 have been returned in 2022 with a total of \$253,500. 52 increased their pledge. About 12 have not returned their pledge and a reminder letter will be sent to them.

- Recruit Vestry members for election: Amy Wortley and Bob Merriman has consented to run for Vestry.
- Budget 2023 first draft: Handout #2
 - J. Irwin presented and reviewed the first draft of the 2023 budget. The budget is always conservative and based on 95% of pledge payment. Compensation is budgeted at a 4% increase. The operating budget is based on pledges. The deficit of the proposed budget is \$137,338. There are three ways to resolve a deficit: increase pledges / raise money, cut the operating expenses including compensation, or transfer money from available restricted funds. There is money available in the Sellers Fund and that could be used to cover the deficit but that would probably deplete the allocated amount from the Sellers Fund for the year 2023.
 - Concern about being good stewards of how the money is being spent was discussed. Is this the best use of the funds that we have and will receive? Do we need to do redevelopment or do evangelism? We are developing two separate congregations: one in person and one online. Informing the congregation about expenses for St. Paul's would be informative as many have no idea what St. Paul's expenses are. It was suggested that the VOP do "Did you Know Information?" as Sunday services. An example would be the cost of winter heating per month.
 - More discussion on the proposed budget will be held in December with a vote to adopt in January before the Annual Meeting
 - Discussion of future opportunities: We need to think about and look at opportunities for outreach for St. Paul's as well financial benefits for St. Paul's.
- On Line reporting: D. Parks reported that there were 526 views for the posting of the ballot proposal information. The web site averages 14 -16 daily contact with a high of 149 on October 27th.
- Phone calls: During the pandemic there were volunteers who regularly phoned parishioners to stay in touch. S. LeDuc suggested making phone calls to stay in touch and ask them to come to church on Sunday. K. Lewis+ pointed out that this approach will not necessarily increase attendance. Too much time has gone by and many have now made up their minds if they are attending in person or attending on line. After discussion it was suggested that a greeting card ministry be started. Greeting Sunday visitors is important and all are encouraged to do so.

Action Items:

Re-visit the transfer of remaining Sander Fund to Perpetual Fund:

- J. Irwin reviewed recent status of the Sander Fund. Currently, the vestry has committed up to \$30,000 (\$10,000 used so far) of Sander money to fund the 2022 budget deficit. Sander money is committed to the remaining cost of \$21,500 for organ repairs. Approximately \$67,000 remains in the Sander Fund. J. Irwin suggested that a portion of the Sander Fund cover the cost of A/V Technician Compensation by setting aside \$25,000 in a fund named "Sander A/V Technician Fund" to pay for future expenses. If so moved, about \$40,000 will remain in the Sander Fund.
- **J. Irwin moved that \$25,000 of balance in the Sander Memorial Fund be moved to establish a new fund to be known as the "Sanders A/V Technology Compensation Fund". This will be a Vestry designated fund to be used to fund compensation of Audio-Visual employee(s). The remaining balance of the Sander Memorial Fund will not be moved to the St. Paul's Perpetual Fund in 2022. Support by L. Hall. Motion carried.**

- The inactive Choir Education Travel Investment Fund used to fund travel of the youth choir. \$6262.22 is the fund balance. Christian Formation Family Ministry is a program designed to support faith formation in the family's home. It will encourage engaging in faith formation Monday through Saturday – carrying what they learn on Sunday into the week at home. The program will support the Sunday lesson. **P. Kressler moved to re-purpose the Choir Education Travel Investment Fund to a new fund called Christian Formation Family Ministry to support family ministry. Support by L. Hall. Motion carried.**
- Mission and Outreach apologized for mistakes made recently in managing the M&O 2022 operating budget. **S. Henderson moved to support money already spent by Mission and Outreach for: \$2,000 for the Diocese of Lexington; \$225.64 for Samaritas community support for youth; \$900 for Independent Living; \$800 for Punks With Lunch; \$1,500 for Lunches for Children's Choir summer camp; M&O support \$250; and M&O donation, \$1,000; for a total of \$6,675.64. Support by S. LeDuc. Motion carried.** To assure this doesn't happen in the future, M&O will change its Request for Check form to indicate whether the funds are coming from its operating budget or restricted funds. In 2023, M&O will be asked to provide a monthly expenditure report to Vestry. It will no longer be required to seek Vestry approval for expenditures from the budgeted M&O restricted fund.
- **Adjournment & Closing Prayer:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah J. Boron, Secretary

Upcoming Events:

Grateful Gathering Dinner – November 22
Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday
Advent series begins Tuesday November 29 – Becoming Beloved Community
St. Nicholas Sunday - December 4
Safe Church Training - December 17
Next Vestry Meeting - December 19

Handouts:

#1 - Financial Report ending October 31, 2022
#2 – Draft of the 2023 Budget
#3 – First Steps: Why aren't people coming back?
#4 – View ONLINE (MSU Canterbury)