Church of the Holy Spirit Vestry & St. Marks Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes

December  2, 2018

Present: Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman, Rev. Deacon Maryan Davis, Kate Donahue, Katie Patten, Joan Bowers, Kathy Lennox, Lew Overaker, Dick Osborne,  Paula Hancock, Deb Holland, Angie Criscuolo, Bea Thibeault  and   Anne Hunnewell.

Absent: Katie Laucks, Richard Bennett, Shannon Inkel.

The meeting opened  with a Scripture reflection at 11 AM.

Minutes: Rev. Kelly made a motion  to approve the minutes of  October 21, 2018  meeting as  distributed. The motion passed unanimously.

Rev. Kelly  made a motion to use a portion of the memorial donations given in memory of  Rev. Allan Hohlt to repair a treasured chalice from Church of the Holy Spirit. It is further moved  that the chalice be sent to a craftsman who will repair it and inscribe it  with a memorial phrase and date. The motion passed unanimously.

The following resolution was duly adopted by the vestry and bishop's committee of the Church of the Holy Spirit and St. Marks Church, at a regularly scheduled meeting held on Sunday, December 2, 2018, a quorum being present.

“Whereas, the Reverend Kelly Sundberg Seaman is compensated by the Church of  the Holy Spirit and of St. Mark's Church exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and Whereas, the Church of the Holy Spirit and of St Mark's Church do not provide Rev. Sundberg Seaman with a rectory; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that the total compensation paid to Rev. Sundberg Seaman for calendar year 2019 shall be $66,000 (plus any adjustment subsequently approved by the Vestry and Bishop's Committee) of which $20,000 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and it is further

Resolved that the designation of $20,000 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2019 and all future years unless otherwise provided.”

The motion was made and passed with  a majority of  yes votes and one abstention.

Renewal Works Update: Joan reported that the Renewal Works team has been progressing through the program’s series of workshops, with the next one scheduled for Saturday, December 15. A report and plans for Renewal Works will be given to the Vestry/Bishop's Committee after completion of our workshops. After leadership discussions we will present our plans to the congregations.

Senior Wardens Reports: Deb reported that she is continuing to deal with repairs  of  the furnaces  at St. Mark's. Further repair has been needed for the furnace at Sherrill Hall.  The repairs have been completed.

Junior Warden Reports: Dick Osborne reported that CHS needs to continue to remove snow from the roof of Griswold Hall on a regular  schedule. He reported that there is a continuing problem with  water coming in at the floor level. He will contact a construction expert to see if this problem can be resolved by the use of a sealant.

Diocesan Convention: Kathy Lennox and Lew Overaker are the CHS delegates and Christian Hungate is our youth delegate. The delegates found Diocesan Convention “awesome,” for the fellowship and music in particular. Questions were raised about particular resolutions; details on those will be confirmed and reported at a future vestry/BC meeting.

Kelly reported that the diocese is considering using PSU's Merrill  Place as  the  site for  the 2019 Diocesan Convention.  CHS and St. Mark's may be asked to support the Convention by volunteering. More information about this soon.

Deacon's Report: Maryan reported on the Advent packets for kids. Each packet contains:  an advent wreath, blue  and white candles,  prayers and collects,  an advent calendar to color, 2 Christmas ornaments,  and materials to make Christmas cards as a family. These packets will be distributed to our Sunday School families, families from our Saturday Eucharist group,  as well as 6-7 families who are on the fringes who are unable to worship with us on Sundays.  Our outreach project for December is a Reverse Advent Calendar, collecting food to be given to the Plymouth and Ashland food pantries.

Our list of home communions is growing. This is a vital ministry of pastoral care and connection to those who cannot attend Sunday services. If anyone is interested in this ministry please speak to Rev. Kelly or Deacon Maryan.

Rev. Kelly is enrolled in a January term course on evangelism and church growth offered by Bexley-Seabury Seminary called “Learning from London.” Kelly has applied for grants Clergy Continuing Education funds as well as Mission Resources funds to help cover tuition and travel. Supply clergy will be with us while Kelly is in London.

Finance Update: The Finance team has been meeting with Wayne Trombly. A 2019 budget will be ready for review at our January 6 meeting.  The Vestry will review and approve the 2019 budget. The diocese is invested in our faith and our moving forward at CHS/St. Mark's.

Angie discussed the chowder dinner and craft fair at St. Mark's as part of the Ashland Community Day on Friday, December 7. The event will be from 4-7:45 PM. The proceeds from the chowder dinner will go to the Ashland Food Pantry. The proceeds from the craft fair will go to St. Mark's outreach.

Upcoming Conferences: Joan reported that there are some upcoming conferences  sponsored by Province I. They will be at the Barbara Harris Conference Center in Greenfield, NH. The first will be  “The Way of Love” to be presented on  March 14-16, 2019. The other conference is  “Longing for Belonging: How to be Present with our Neighbors”  presented by our Diocese and the UCC.  This will be on March 28-30. We have applied for a Mission Resources Committee grant that would fund the attendance of teams of church leaders at these gatherings.

Rev. Kelly requested that all those who  chair  committees or ministries  send their reports to the office by January 2 for inclusion in the annual report.

Kelly  advised the Vestry and Bishop's Committee that there will be a combined Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27, 2019.  Following discussion, it was determined that a “neutral” site would be most appropriate. Rev. Kelly will investigate options for gathering, particularly at the Holderness School.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon. The next meeting will be Sunday, January 6, 2019 at Sherrill Hall at 11 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Hancock