Holy Spirit & St. Marks Bishop's Committee Minutes

Sunday, February 16, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Kelly called the meeting to order at 10:45.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rev. Kelly Sundberg-Seaman, Rev. Deacon Maryan Davis, Guy Tillson, Joan Bowers, Ruth Harlow, Katie Patten, Kate Donahue, Wayne Trombly, Paula Hancock.

Scripture Reflection: Wayne Trombly led us in a reflection on Matthew 11:25-30.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

* Katie Patten made a motion to approve the minutes of Sunday, January 19 as distributed. Joan Bowers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FEBRUARY 9 CONVERSATION UPDATE

* We had a good conversation with good questions/good answers
* Most questions were about the current worth of the Plymouth property
* The market value is not the same currently as the day we bought the property
* There is true joy and enthusiasm about moving to the Holderness School campus for a weekly public service
* We will address the timeline for the property sale/congregation merger

ANNUAL MEETING TIMELINE

* Gathering Prayer/Word to the Peace; Annual Meeting business; Communion

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

* No mention in Annual Report of Griswold Hall activities. Kelly will write addendum

PAROCHIAL REPORT

* Parochial Report needs to be submitted to the Diocese/ National Church.
* Parochial Report needs required signatures
* Average attendance at 9:30 service is up; the attendance at 8 AM is down; the total attendance is the same as 2019.
* Financial stability; no financial issues
* Clergy Compensation is within current guidelines; ministry/programs in good shape; parish delegations at full complement
* Ruth made a motion to approve the Parochial Report as proposed. Wayne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LENT UPDATE

* Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Tuesday, February 25 at 5 PM Sherrill Hall
* Ash Wednesday Eucharist at St. Marks Wednesday, February 26 11 AM; luncheon at 11:45. Family at Home members encouraged to attend.
* Ashes to Go outside our downtown office from 8-10 AM on Wednesday, February 26
* Ashes to Go with Maryan/Campus Ministry clergy at PSU on Wednesday, February 26

CONGREGATION MERGER TIMELINE

* Thursday, May 7: We submit a request to the Standing Committee: we would like to be admitted into union with Diocesan Convention; we will be an Episcopal Church and recognize the authority of the Bishop; all of our real estate holdings belong to the Diocese; no new bylaws.
* We need to discern a new name for our merged congregation. This needs to include all parish members; all day event. We will put our sticky notes on the name preferences. We will make a decision on the new name by secret ballot.
* Both congregations will come under the new name.
* We need clarification of the status of St. Marks; we need to celebrate both congregations before name change.
* We would like to schedule this new name discernment event for right after Easter (April 12); we will send out an invitation letter to all parish members for this event.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

* Kelly received an email from Rev. Zachary Harmon of St. Christiopher's Hampton inquiring if we as a congregation would support a renaming of Columbus Day to Indigeneous Peoples Day. A motion was made and seconded to add our congregations name with Kelly in support of Indigenous Peoples Day. The motion passed unanimously.

FURNACE/PROPERTY

* Dead River has replaced the “brains” of our furnace at Sherrill Hall; there are now three large buttons: press i gives you more information; there is a readout screen shows status of furnace and indicates if the furnace is in restart mode.
* Wayne made a motion to transfer funds from our Wells Fargo Capital account to cover the recent expenses for the repair of the furnace. Kate Donahue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LENTEN FORMATION PROGRAMS

* Our Lenten Program will be titled “Signs of Life” a video which will be shown during coffee hour. We need someone to lead the 5 week discussion; small discussion groups may emerge.

WARDENS REPORT

* Joan will be attending the Commisison on Ministry; there will be 2 postulant interviews, please pray for the Commisison; Joan has copies of the summer brochure from Allyenrude; Allyenrude will be offering spiritual direction training (May-September). See Joan for program details.
* Saturday, March 14 – Quiet Day at St. Andrews, Hopkinton sponsored by Companions of the Holy Cross. Topic: Celtic.
* Regional Revival Event: Saturday, September 12 in Franklin: Festival of Saints and Stories: storytellers, food trucks, choirs; receipt of national grant with matching Diocesan grant.

FINANCIALS

* Working with Amber for her to take care of weekly data input
* Treasurer should only do financial oversight
* $8,500 will go into the CHS investment account
* Amber rewriting year end financial report: will be mailed shortly
* We have a -3,224; we can take off $1,500 from this total; fourth quarter insurance bills came due in January 2020
* Wayne is pleased with where these congregations are financially at the end of January 2020

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM. The next Bishop's Committee meeting will be Sunday, March 15 at 11 AM at Sherrill Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Hancock, Clerk