Church of the Holy Spirit and St. Marks

Bishop's Committee Meeting

Sunday, April 26, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Kelly called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Guy Tillson, Kate Donahue, Joan Bowers, Ruth Harlow, Ron Sibley, Rev. Deacon Maryan Davis, Katie Patten, Wayne Twombly, John Michaud, Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman, Paula Hancock

OTHERS PRESENT: Amber Barselau, Administrative Assistant

Scripture Reflections was led by Maryan Davis. Philippians 4:4-9.

MINUTES

Kelly tabled the Sunday, February 16, 2020 minutes. The minutes will be reviewed at the May meeting

FINANCIALS

Wayne made the following points on our financial overview:

* Revenue/pledges down in March
* Our financial resources are good for the next 2-3 months
* We have $17,000-$18,000 in revenue
* We spend approximately $11,000/month
* We anticipate $4,500 in May pledges
* We anticipate a downturn of $7,000 and will shortly feel the effects of present unemployment
* We have been working with the banks. We anticipate a $17,600 from the banks due to Paycheck Protection Program (Federal Program). We have no layoffs.
* At our May meeting Wayne will review with us a revised budget for 2020
* Our Wells Fargo account has a $25,000 balance
* Our Bartlett Fund has a $5,000 balance.
* Pledges can be mailed in, paid online, donation by clicking on “donate” button on church website
* Wayne would like to take the $13,000 Recovery Fund funds and create a new bank account at Meredith Village Savings Bank. Motion: To authorize Wayne to take the $13,000 earmarked for the Recovery Fund and create a new bank account at Meredith Village Savings Bank. Joan Bowers made the motion. Ruth Harlow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
* Due to the volatility of the present Stock Market Wayne proposes to close out our Wells Fargo account in the amount of $24-$25,000. He proposes to take $12,000-$13,000 to replace funds from the St. Marks account. He proposes to take the remainder of the money and place in the Capital Funds account. Our loss from withdrawal will be approximately $2,000.
* Motion: To authorize Wayne to close out the Wells Fargo account, place $12,000-$13,000 in the St Marks account, the remainder in the Capital Funds account. Joan Bowers made the motion. Ruth Harlow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
* Paul Wilson advises there is no further information regarding our Highland Street property at this time.

ECF Question Responses

The following observations were made about the ECF Questions:

* Trying intentionally to stay connected
* Problem: what percentage of our congregation have acces to a computer and can get online;how many know what is going on in our faith community
* We decided against any online worship because of the number of opportunities for worship Sundays and weekdays throughout the diocese.
* We have a problem sustaining our faith community because we are not really a “small town” but our demographics are widespread. We have a sense of loss because of social events that draw us together have been cancelled. No casual conversations at school pickup etc.
* We are realizing our digital divide and our comfort level using technology; hard to teach people who are not technology savvy
* We miss that sense of working side by side. Our Card Ministry is going well. Contact Sandy Adams with information to send cards to loved ones
* Feelings of depression are on the increase; our nursing home members are cutoff from visits
* We deal with the uncertainty, length of stay at home rules; we have no immunity so extreme care is needed

Proposed Plans for Gathering After COVID

* Take our new Parish Directory, each BC member take a page and canvas our congregation as to what they are feeling/concerns; our older congregation falls into high risk category
* What percentage of our congregation would feel comfortable gathering for service
* Redesign our worship space maintaining our 6' distance
* Habits/numbers/ space accommodation needs to change
* What safety issues do we need to address to make gathering possible;use of plexiglass for safety
* The act of singing can be very dangerous and spread the virus;use of Rite I spoken service
* Online Service: Thursdays 11 AM Healing Service; make people aware of opportunity;convince people there continues to be other times to be church than Sunday morning

Parish Directory

BC members will take a page of Parish Directory and contact parish members; canvas/connect with all community members. We listen/pray/how can your church help you/ how can you support your church

Plymouth Area Community Closet Coupons

PACC has created $25 coupons that can be redeemed at area/local resraurants. The recipient presents the coupon and PACC will reimburse the restaurant. Kelly has coupons; let her know if you know of anyone who could benefit from these coupons.

Clergy Reports

* Maryan sent out Faith At Home projects where the recipient reads particular bible verses daily and answers accompanying questions. This has been sent to the entire community; do it alone or with a partner. Projects going to Faith at Home families can be completed at home without going to store.
* Pastoral Care is proceeding well between Kelly and Maryan
* Diocesan clergy are spending time together via technology;clergy meet with Bishop for bible study on Tuesday;Thursday weekly clergy gathering
* Kelly, Angie and Ruth “join” a Zoom Leadership Meeting. It was suggested that small, weak churches should be pruned from the Vine. Ruth, Kelly and Angie point out that as a small church we have grown, are curious/resilient people; we are careful about protecting our community and our resources; we have a good chance of survival. We need to learn to be pastoral leaders by connecting with our community via mail, email, phone call, card/letter. How can we pray/support you or support our church. Encourage people to join our Healing Service; simply listen to each person; connect with people. Issues of finances, food, mental health contact Kelly. Joan can be a possible coach.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Hancock, Clerk