Holy Spirit and St Marks

Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes

Sunday, May 31, 2020

CALL TO ORDER; Kelly called the meeting to order at 11:32 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rev. Deacon Maryan Davis, Ruth Harlow, Kate Donahue, Ron Sibley, Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman, Guy Tillson, Wayne Trombly, John Michaud, Amber Barselau and Paula Hancock.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

* Scripture Reflections were led by Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman. Exodus 13:17-19.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

* John made a motion to accept the February 16 and April 26 minutes as distributed. Kate Donahue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
* Amber and Paula are working on putting our Bishop's Committee minutes on our website.

FINANCE OVERVIEW

* Received our PPP loan of $17,000; this amount will be reflected as income in our August financials. This will pay payroll expenses. We have partnered with Northway Bank for this loan.
* $16,000 currently in the St. Marks checking account belongs to Campus Ministry
* The Wells Fargo withdrawal has not been completed at present
* The Bartlett annual withdrawal has not been taken out at present
* The motion: To authorize a transfer of $500 to the Deacon’s discretionary fund, and $1,000 to the Vicar’s discretionary fund. Ruth made the motion. Kate seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PARISH DIRECTORY INITIATIVE

* It is important to nurture local connections/ties. Check in with each other.
* Initiative to connect with everyone on our current parish mailing list: phone, email, card
* Ask: how are they doing, how are things going, listen to them, if they need food, specific services, financial assistance find out how to contact them, what their needs might be and let Kelly know of the need for assistance
* The parish directory members names have been distributed to BC members as follows: Ruth p1; Guy page 2 and 12;Kate page 3; Paula page 8 and 4; John page 5-6; Ron page 7 and 11; Deb page 10; Wayne page 13.

SENIOR WARDEN UPDATE

* Kelly accepted with regret and gratitude the resignation of Joan Bowers as co-Senior Warden. Joan and Robin Bowers will remain parishioners at St Marks.

DISCUSSION OF BISHOP'S DOCUMENT: “FOLLOWING THE GOOD SHEPHERD”

* Kelly asked the BC to discuss their feelings and concerns relative to the opening of churches for public worship. Their comments are as follows:
* How can we continue to move forward and keep a balance
* Reticent to open doors; it scares me that we can expose susceptible people; there are people who are asymptomatic and can spread the virus and not be aware of it
* Out of 16 confirmed cases of positive COVID, 12-13 of these cases were asympotmatic.
* We can't socially distance. We have only one entrance/exit and no secondary door for an exit.
* If we are only able to have a 40% congregation to meet the State restrictions which 40% of our congregation do we invite to worship each week? Do we take reservations? A waiting list?
* As vacationers and second homeowners come into the State the virus will grow and move north.
* Reticence: we need to love each other but be careful
* Erect a tent in the Highland Street parking lot and create a platform for Kelly and Maryan to stand on for service
* We are aware of the seriousness of the virus but it is a virus we don't recognize
* We have a vulnerable congregation; additional members will be too frightened or concerned to attend public worship
* We are curious about outdoor church
* Require the wearing of masks and insist on handwashing
* Bishop Rob is far from understanding how to do Eucharist
* Holderness School/ St. Marks/Holy Spirit connection we would like to continue. Conversations will continue.
* Deep cleaning before and after public worship will be expensive. We are concerned about its impact on our fragile finances.
* The Holderness School ice rink would be large enough for the size of our congregation; deep cleaning would be less; how would this affect our Holderness School connection
* Remote/online worship will continue regardless of our final decision about public worship
* Great Northern could be contracted for the deep cleaning; cleaning could be clumsy/mechanical
* We are nervous about public worship; we are no longer a welcoming community;concern that we have to have people sign up for services on waiting list; a different combination of people weekly
* Summer chapels will be closed for the season; summer tourists will be looking for alternate places to worship; concern if we can accommodate them
* We will need to know the dimensions of the Holderness hockey rink bleachers; we will need to do contact tracing, wearing of masks, taking temperatures
* Observing the age restrictions will diminish our congregation quite a bit
* Those in the high risk group who are healthy should have a choice to attend public worship.
* Our venue does not allow us to sidestep the other restrictions.

DEACON'S REPORT

* Maryan sent out the Pentecost materials for our Faith at Home community: it was a flying dove mobile with fire ribbon flames as fruit of the spirit;word find; parable of the sower; we will have Flat Jesus for our summer project. All materials have been sent to Faith at Home community.
* A financial gift from the Diocese has been used to support Faith at Home families in need; support of our local Got Lunch programs.
* Amber is close to completing a paper newsletter to connect with all our faith community members.

PASTORAL CHECK-IN: WHAT CAN WE PRAY FOR IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD

* BC members discussed how we might pray for each other and our households.

ADJOURNMENT:

* A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Hancock, Clerk