Holy Spirit & St Mark’s, Plymouth & Ashland

Vestry and Bishop's Committee Minutes

June 30, 2019

Present: Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman, Rev. Deacon Maryan Davis, Joan Bowers, John Michaud, Katie Patten, Wayne Trombly, Guy Tillson, Kate Donahue and Paula Hancock.

**Opening Scripture Reflections**

**Minutes** The motion was made and seconded to approve the May 19, 2019 minutes as distributed. The vote was unanimous.

**Leadership Changes** Kathy Lennox has stepped down from the Vestry. It is not too early to create a list of possible leaders for 2020. We need someone who is comfortable with numbers to assist with pledge data entry and assist with the offering count for the weekly bank deposit. We need an individual who is comfortable with property management at CHS.

**Diocesan Convention** The Lakes Region in the past has been of region of contraction within the Episcopal Church of NH. Toward resolving this a lay leader comes to Franklin every Thursday morning to say midday prayers. The Tilton church has been refurbished into apartments for housing our young people who are doing field work for our church. The Bishop is proposing that the Tilton church be used as a regional seminary space. The seminary would be uncollaborative and the students would do their studying through video classes. They would meet at the Tilton site for prayer, discussion and connection. Bill Peterson, Kelly and Tina Pickering are in the process of organizing two clergy regional revivals in the Lakes Region. The revival will bring in a national speaker who will speak about our power of love and our stories.

Standing Committee Proposal The Standing Committee is proposing to reestablish Church of the Holy Spirit as a mission. It will mean a change of status for CHS. It will mean returning to our roots as a faith community. CHS would be redefining itself and would grow. We would embrace the identity of beginning again. As a mission Kelly's title would change from Rector to Vicar. Kelly would represent the Bishop (the Rector) in day to day operations of the community. The designation would be temporary. When the faith community at CHS has sound and independent finances the designation could change. With the new designation CHS would be able to avail themselves of the resources of the Diocese and Standing Committee. The new designation will be proposed at the 2019 Diocesan Convention. We will be invited to speak to Convention delegates regarding our new identity as a mission.

The Vestry made the following motion: We offer our support to the Bishop and Standing Committee for a resolution designating Church of the Holy Spirit as a mission. We concur with the Bishop and Standing Committee to redesignate Church of the Holy Spirit as a mission of the Episcopal Church of New Ham pshire. The motion passed unanimously.

Becoming a mission is a blessing/gift. CHS will be growing, searching for their mission and raising new leadership. The changes in becoming a mission would include changing Kelly's title from Rector to Vicar; a change in the number of members on the new Bishop's Committee. CHS would now become a Bishop's Committee instead of a Vestry.

Ashland Property Issues: The gate hinge to the playground needs to be repaired. There is interest in installing an air conditioner in Sherrill Hall for use in the main room. More discussion is needed. It has been suggested that an AED be installed in both Ashland buildings.

Plymouth Property Issues: Concern was raised that the office building is rather secluded and can be unsafe when someone is working alone. It is being proposed to sell the CLC building and open an office space storefront in downtown Plymouth. Concern was raised about finding space and having adequate parking. We will going forward count and create the deposits for both churches after the 9:30 service. Wayne will write up the new procedures. Water was found on the floor in the kitchen at Griswold before services on Sunday, June 30th. Wayne is presently looking into the issue. We presently have paint and primer to paint the vestibule in Griswold. A possible individual to complete this project was suggested to the Vestry.

**Financials:**Wayne reports that we continue to have a $35,000 deficit. His goal is that by the end of July he can submit a six month financial report to the Vestry.

Vacation Schedules: Ash will be on vacation for three of the four weeks of July. Colin McIver will serve as our substitute organist. Colin has been studying organ and piano at PSU. Kelly will be on vacation the end of July. Rt. Rev. Frank Griswold will supply in her absence. Maryan will preach the end of the month. Kelly is proposing that in August and September that the Vestry experiment with a weekday evening Vestry meeting.

**Adjournment** A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Hancock, Clerk