

## **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VESTRY**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Vestry of Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church was called to order at 4:32 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, 2025, by Senior Warden Dee Ann Anigian, in Room 203. Before the meeting, the service of Holy Eucharist was held in the Saint Michael Chapel with the Rev. Greg Pickens, as Celebrant.

Members in attendance were Dee Ann Anigian, Senior Warden; Hudson Weichsel, Junior Warden; Julie Allen, Warden-at-Large; Susan Barnicoat, Allison Bovard, James Carry, Jim Chambers, Squeaky Connolly, Terry Demler, Elizabeth Gambrell, Amanda Harris, Zoe Hart, LeAnne Langholz, Jack Marshallsea, and J. Puckett.

Ex officio members in attendance were the Rev. Dr. Chris Girata, Rector; the Rev. Ken Brannon, Vice Rector; Dianna Bowen, Chancellor; Arnold Spencer, Assistant Chancellor; Becky Odlozil, Treasurer. Also in attendance were the Rev. Dr. Andrew Grosso, Rob Baber, Colleen O'Hara, Alma Vega-Rouse, Bhavnita Masih, and Meredith Turner.

Jim Chambers led the Vestry in prayer.

Dee Ann started the meeting and asked whether there were any questions about the Consent Agenda. She then asked whether there were any requests to remove items from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. There were none. Susan Barnicoat moved to adopt the consent agenda as written. Zoe Hart seconded. The agenda was approved.

### **SAINT MICHAEL EPISCOPAL SCHOOL (SMES) HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT – Netra Fitzgerald**

Dee Ann welcomed Netra Fitzgerald, Head of School for SMES. Netra greeted the Vestry and meeting attendees stating that she is delighted to have been Head of School for five years and that it has been a wonderful journey for her. Netra referred to the School Report in their packet. The school has had an excellent view of construction! The Kindergarten classes below have enjoyed watching the construction since it's right outside their window and the teachers have created many lessons using what's in front of them.

Netra expressed gratitude for all the church has done for the school, particularly putting completion of the school construction first so they could open their doors in a timely fashion for the school year. She also thanked many members of the Vestry for assisting with the 72-hour turnaround to get the school ready to open. The increased square footage, automatic sinks, and non-slippery floors have all been game changers this year.

The faculty has been energized and invigorated, as have the parents. Has been wonderful to have Greg on site to offer chapel services as well as communion. It has been an integral part of connecting church and school.

They continue to have strong enrollment numbers as are having great success with the return of their summer programming. They are having more younger families considering SMES than before. This will also be the 4<sup>th</sup> year of a second Kindergarten classroom. They service 12 months to Kindergarten with many families applying out for Pre-K. Having two Kinder classes is a wonderful thing as families are choosing to stay that additional year.

Schools where SMES students go have given feedback that the SMES students are prepared and poised – both wonderful attributes.

Thanked those who assisted with the accreditation. Within our SAES division which consists of six states, SMES is 1 of 3 stand-alone accredited preschools. They just completed their 5-year accreditation which is considered an interim certification. They will have their 10-year accreditation in five years which will be a full accreditation review. Julie Allen added that Julie Butterworth was very helpful and instrumental in that process.

The first school strategic plan is underway. They have hired Suzanne Smith to assist with it. Goal is to continue the school's stable growth with a dynamic and viable plan. School continues to develop programming that evolves and engages the students, such as Godly play for all ages.

Last summer they had no summer camps, which the parents were not happy about. Everyone is very excited that summer programs are being relaunched this year. They also have new software to support the programs and enrollment. In 2023, they had 188 campers which filled 543 spots over the course of the summer. In 2025, they currently have 205 campers filling 578 spots over the summer. They are excited that they can now open up the camps to non-SMES families and offer more to the community.

Dee Ann thanked Netra for her report and complimented her on all the things happening at SMES. J. Puckett echoed Dee Ann stating that the school report was very impressive.

### **RECTOR'S REPORT – Chris Girata**

Chris reminded everyone that the Vestry Social is from 5:30 – 6:30 pm in Room 201 following this meeting and will include the Foundation Trustees and the St. Michael Episcopal School Board Members.

Also reminded the group that the Spring Vestry Retreat will be on April 26<sup>th</sup> and is now at the Penthouse of the LPC Building. They will come down to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor for a bird's eye construction tour during their meetings.

Page 32 of Vestry Meeting Packet is the Agenda for Saturday's Retreat.

Pages 33-34 of his report includes a draft calendar for 2026 and 2027. If you see any glaring issues, please let Bhav know. In May he would like to approve the 2026 calendar and the 2027 calendar is just information to have for now. Look for it in the information Bhav sent you.

Easter attendance was up and the Flower Memorials were up as well. Going back, the numbers were higher than several years prior. There has been a push from the Advancement Office to increase flower gifts and it's working. Alma's goal is to have every Sunday's flowers in both the church and chapel sponsored by someone. Alma's team can actually do this which will be a nice budget offset for the year and years to come.

The Spring Discipleship Gatherings from the Advancement Office are having good responses. Is nice that they're having good traction there.

Prior to Retreat Saturday, look over the Vision Traction Organizers (VTO). Each year the Vestry sets priorities that should be handed off to the following year and try not to recreate the wheel. It's much more efficient to work with what already has a foundation.

To that point, Chris reviewed the Building Plan with a slide show. He went through what the Vestry has already seen but are now seeing in more detail and is the same information that was shared with the staff. The building use by the church and others will also be part of their Vestry conversation.

Programming in the building will take thought and planning. May actually take 2-3 years of living in the space to actually figure out how it can be best used. The church's discipleship group is primary, then figure out how to fit in community groups who may want to use the space. At the Retreat, we should discuss how the building will look and what it's usage will be. As a member of the Dallas community, we want the community to use the space, but what will that look like.

### **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Dee Ann Anigian**

Holy Week and Easter were spectacular. Clergy, ushers, altar guild, operations, flowers – all amazing. Wednesday started the day with no organ but Ken and Chris did great. It is on and working so no major Easter interruptions.

Dee Ann thanked everyone for responding and digitally approving the Parochial Report. The Report of Episcopal Congregations and Missions is due the end of every year. Timing is always tight, but Rob worked on it and got it done. The Report confirms the number of Saint Michael delegates for the Bishop Coadjutor election which is coming up.

Nominations for Vestry and Diocesan Delegates opens May 1<sup>st</sup>. Nominees will be reviewed and they will send documents to the qualified candidates. Dee Ann reviewed language and words to use when asking candidates, referring to an email she sent members of the Vestry. Chris said that it is a great resource. Dee Ann stated she is happy to resend if anyone would like to have it again. A forthcoming email will contain a list of people who have recently served. Applications close on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dee Ann thanked Hudson for helping tweak all the application documents. They added new verbiage to current pledge to the church to include pledge to recent capital campaign on record. Is important because the new / incoming Vestry will be in place when the new buildings are open and will need their collective support.

James asked if the nominating process from his end is just turning in a name to the Nominating Committee. Dee Ann replied that all Vestry members do is turn in a name but make sure you state that you are asking that their name be considered. Chris reiterated "considered" as it is a safe way to speak to someone. Ken added that names submitted to the Nominating Committee are not only considered for the Vestry, but are also considered for other leadership roles in the church such as standing committees. Dee Ann clarified that the online portal for applications reflects Vestry and/or standing committees. She stated that there is a list of qualifications on the forms with an added opportunity for a candidate to determine what he or she would like to do.

#### **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Hudson Weichsel**

No Report

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT – Becky Odlozil**

Becky Odlozil, Treasurer, presented the March Financials.

On the Statement of Activities, Revenue available year-to-date is \$2.9 million, or \$93 ahead of budget. The Pledge categories taken together are \$103 thousand ahead of budget, offset somewhat by the Unpledged category which is lower than expected by \$26 thousand. Expenses are \$1.7 million year-to-date with some small, mostly positive variances where timing is the main driver, ending with a net position of \$1.2 million, or \$122 thousand ahead of budget. The Statements of Financial Position reflect \$120 million in assets on the Operating side and \$6 million for the Restricted accounts. Becky noted we continue to have a strong cash position.

Becky reviewed the Project Management document which reflects \$35 million spent on the construction project as of April 9<sup>th</sup> which is 49% of the total budget. While the Contingency line on the report remains the same, it does not include some additional change orders approved, so committed funds of the Contingency balance are closer to \$2 million, leaving \$1 million yet to be committed. The current month draw is \$1.6 million.

During this review, Susan Barnicoat asked about a vendor listed called USA Canvas. Colleen answered that they are the vendor for the covered walkway.

Yesterday Finance Committee approved two fund solicitations requests. The Finance Committee's purpose in reviewing these requests is to look at any budget associated with the request and ensure that the solicitations do not interfere with other fundraising or Stewardship activities.

One request for the 2026 Parish Party & Auction (including their budget plan), and the plan for solicitations for Underwriting and Live auction items, to be made from late April to mid-September, so as not to coincide with Stewardship. Some of the solicitations will be written and some verbal, depending upon the ask.

The other request was for the summer food drive for Now-Forward (formerly North Dallas Shared Ministries). The request was to allow an option for monetary donations to the drive (via QR code on materials or a check) in lieu of food donations for those who would prefer that method. The drive will be June through mid-July.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dee Ann asked if there were any announcements.

Terry Demler asked the Vestry to prayerfully consider assisting with the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Diocesan Election for Bishop Coadjutor being held at Saint Michael. Clergy and lay delegates from around the diocese will be attending. We are expecting 370 people. Most do not know how to navigate the campus during construction, so having parishioners – Vestry members – present will be important. You can serve as a greeter, assist with registration, or serve as the Sargent at Arms. Bishop Little from Indiana will be giving the sermon. He is staying at the Lumen and will arrive early Saturday so he can see the campus.

Registration starts at 7:00 am with 8:30 am worship and the meeting beginning at 10:00 am. Please sign up for a shift to help and are in particular need of someone to serve as Sargent at Arms.

Chris asked Bhav to send the Sign-Up Genius to the Vestry for the day.

Dee Ann adjourned the Vestry portion of the meeting at 5:29 pm to be followed by the Executive Session. The Executive Session adjourned at 5:30 pm and asked everyone to attend the school and foundation reception down the hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bitsy Hudnall  
Clerk for the Vestry