

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 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, 2025, by Senior Warden Dee Ann Anigian, in Room 201. Before the meeting, the service of Holy Eucharist was held in the Bishop Moore Chapel with the Rev. Dr. Andrew Grosso, as Celebrant.

Members in attendance were Dee Ann Anigian, Senior Warden; Hudson Weichsel, Junior Warden; Julie Allen, Warden-at-Large; Susan Barnicoat, Allison Bovard (via phone), Jim Chambers, Squeaky Connolly, Elizabeth Gambrell, Zoe Hart, LeAnne Langholz, and J. Puckett.

Ex officio members in attendance were the Rev. Dr. Chris Girata, Rector; the Rev. Ken Brannon, Vice Rector; 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 Bitsy Hudnall.

Susan Barnicoat 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. Jim Chambers moved to adopt the consent agenda as written. Zoe Hart seconded. The agenda was approved.

RECTOR'S REPORT – Chris Girata

April 16 Vestry Retreat: Our April retreat is coming up next month on April 26th. It's also the same day we're doing the big Parish work day. If you'd like to participate in the workday, let Chris know and he will make sure you are included. They will be working 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

October 15 Vestry Meeting: Chris reminded everyone that they received an updated invitation for the October Vestry meeting because it had moved up a week [from Oct 22 to Oct 15]. It's technically the third Wed. of the month, but the first Wednesday of the month is the 1st so we bumped it be helpful to the Finance Committee, however we learned the Annual meeting of the Compass Rose Society is going to be that week of the 21st and 22nd. Thanks to Becky and Rob and others being willing to move the time table so Chris, Dee Ann, and Hudson, can attend the Annual Meeting in London. We go every year to represent the church.

Digital Organ:

Responding to a question from Allison Bovard about the digital organ. About 7 years ago, during a master planning conversation for the campus, Chris convened a group to take a thoughtful look at the plans, specifically about the possibility of having the choir in the front of the church. It was determined that that idea was cost prohibitive, as it would be 70-80% of building an entire new sanctuary. Feedback

from parishioners was that there was no interest in a new sanctuary. The decision was made to keep the choir and organ in the rear of the church but have the choir sing in front more often. We learned at that time that our organ was in poor condition. The company SMAA contracted to build our organ had financial trouble and built our organ cheaply. For example, the gauge of the metal on the pipes is far thinner than it should be. Now our organ is failing. Since the next capital project down the road will involve the sanctuary, including an expansion of the choir loft and in general, expanding the east entry off Douglas, we plan to replace the organ at that time. Given the vulnerability of our current organ, the current music staff pursued an RFP for a digital organ to use now. When the time comes to do sanctuary work, the digital organ can move to the front of the church. The Rector has spoken to the original donors of our organ, and they are pleased that we are being thoughtful about how to proceed and were supportive of this plan. The digital organ speakers will be in the current pipe chambers. Most listeners will not detect a difference. Musicians will notice an improvement over our current sound. The cost of the digital organ will be \$79,000 or less. It hasn't been determined which fund will cover the cost of the digital organ. Vestry approval will be necessary when the time comes. Finally, the chapel organ is in good shape.

Spring Advancement Gatherings:

We are set with some spring advancement gatherings. Alma has been coordinating those and an idea the Dee Ann floated. Based on what we did in the fall, these spring gatherings will be around general engagement. Advancement is coordinating them, and we will talk about what giving actually does, but under the umbrella of discipleship. We are not making asks, but we are inviting mostly people who are non-pledgers. It's an invitation to invest. Those are going to happen from late April to May 1.

Finally, based on conversation at last month's Executive Session, we have some answers and information that I will share in this month's Executive Session.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Dee Ann Anigian

Nominating Committee: Dee Ann announced that it is time to begin considering nominations for the Vestry. Last year, the timetable moved up and we are doing that again this year. Nominations will open May 1 and conclude July 1. This adjustment allows for the vestry nomination process to conclude before the Standing Committee nomination process. The nominating committee consists of the 5 retiring vestry members, the Warden at Large and 4 members of the parish who are also on the Parish Ministry Council. The names of those four church members are kept confidential but shared with the vestry. Vestry members are expected to nominate at least one person. Dee Ann offered broad guidance for having conversations with potential nominees. Vestry members should be clear that they are asking a parishioner to allow their name to be considered for nomination. Then a nominating committee will take all nominations as a group and consider them in light of the church's needs, various skill sets and experiences within the church of the 5 retiring members. A puzzle will be put together to achieve a balanced vestry. This is another opportunity to serve, in a bigger,

strategic and more global fashion. Vestry members will also be provided with the list of basic requirements for vestry service. Please also consider computer skills when considering potential nominees. Chris asked Dee Ann to write up a general script about the nomination process so that when each vestry member asks someone to be considered for nominations, we are all basically making the same ask.

Clerk: Heather Lorch will not be able to continue as Vestry Clerk and Bitsy Hudnall has agreed to step into that role. The Wardens Committee moves and seconds that The Resolutions Document be amended to reflect this change. The motion unanimously passed, while Bitsy Hudnall stepped outside.

Vestry Social: Reminder that a Social Moment is scheduled following next month's vestry meeting. Please make plans to attend this event with the Foundation Trustees and SMES Board.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Hudson Weichsel

No Report

TREASURER'S REPORT – Becky Odlozil

Becky Odlozil, Treasurer, reported on the Finance Committee meeting Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Referring to the Statement of Activities as of February, page 13:

Budget:

Last month, the hard close for the year as of December was reviewed, so in this meeting, the first two months of the new fiscal year, ended February are reviewed.

- Total Revenue Available is \$2.4 million which is \$120 K higher than budget, mostly in the current year pledge category. \$1,075,000 in prepaid pledges were received for 2025.
- Expenses total \$1.1 million which is lower than budget by a small amount due to timing.
- The period ends with a net position of \$1.3 million for the two months, ahead of budget by \$146K.

Statements of Financial Position, beginning page 14

- Assets total \$115 million on the Operating Ledger, and \$10 million on Restricted Ledger.

The floor opened for questions and Le Anne asked if there are different pockets for continuing education. It was also asked what we will do with the extra funds with Mary Lessmann leaving? Chris said it would be good for the Treasurer to note when funds are being closed. It would be a matter of Becky and Rob having that conversation.

Project Management document, page 21

- \$32 million spent as of March 6th which is 47% of the total budget

- Contingency line remains the same - \$1.5mm left.
- Current month draw is higher at \$3.5 million which includes retainage payment due to completion of Phase I.

It was shared how exciting to look out and see the height. Squeaky saw Pam Luce, and shared that she has not heard of any negative information shared about the construction project this far. Chris added that the Executive staff look at attendance at 29.7% of what we anticipate collecting in the year. We are meaningfully ahead of where we have been on average in the last 3 years.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, EXECUTIVE SESSION, ADJOURNMENT

Chris reminded the group to look on page 10 of the packet to review the current Vision Traction Organizer. The Vestry needs review that V/TO before our April retreat. It's a visioning retreat. Be thinking about the church 3 years from now. That's the primary frame in which we conduct that retreat so that you look to identify opportunities, problems to solve, hopes and dreams. Be thinking in 3 years because 1 year stuff is tactical, but we want to look at 3 years out since it's actionable and not just theoretical. You can see that on Page 11. Bring your ideas to that retreat because by the time we end the retreat, by noon on 26th of April, he will have pushed the vestry to identify a priority list that can be passed on to the Executive staff members. They will take this priority list to their meeting in May. They take a lot of emphasis based on the vestry retreat, so thank you for looking it over. Chris turned the meeting back over to Dee Ann

There being no further business, Dee Ann then adjourned the regular meeting at 5:06 p.m. and moved the meeting into Executive Session at 5:07 p.m. Dee Ann then moved the meeting out of Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. and back into regular session at 6:01 p.m. There being no further business, Dee Ann adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bhavnita Masih
Executive Assistant to the Rector