

Church of the Nativity
Minutes of the Vestry
March 15, 2022

Attending: Stephanie Allen, Stephanie Sumner, Beth Crow, Josh Booth, John Oldham, Bill Sena, Kim Stoke, Allison Martin, George Douglas, Anne Krouse, Perry Suk, Mike Rhaney, and Gail Christensen.

The meeting was convened at 7:05 pm. The meeting began with a discussion of Matthew 29:16-20.

Diocesan Guidelines:

The Bishops of NC have updated their Covid guidelines to Stage 3B. "As of March 1, we are moving from masks being required back to masks being strongly recommended for those who are vaccinated during indoor worship and meetings. We still require masks and social distancing for those who are not vaccinated. We will no longer require this, however, of those who are fully vaccinated." Each parish/mission is asked to determine for their congregation how they wished to "reopen" their worship and buildings now that Covid cases have significantly declined in the state.

The Vestry discussed how Nativity would follow the guidelines. The vote was unanimous that the Vestry was comfortable making masks optional starting March 27 for those who are vaccinated. We recognize that if there is another surge of Covid, we will need to return to requiring masks. An announcement of this change will be put into this week's Glad Tidings, Stephanie will announce it during services, and Megan will create posters to alert those coming into the buildings. Masks will still be available for those who wish them. It will be at the parents' discretion whether children will wear masks.

Since sign-ups for services have not been observed in the main, contact tracing if there is an exposure means an email will be sent to the whole congregation.

We will continue to use intinction only for wine at communion, but several churches in the Diocese have returned to the common cup and we may soon as well.

Providing coffee and fellowship is permitted by the Bishops but at Nativity it will depend on when we have volunteers to do the setup and cleanup. Beth suggested that the Vestry members once again make coffee and use the trolley to roll it to the doors of the Narthex.

Approval of February 2022 Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the February 2022 Vestry meeting were submitted for approval. Kim moved to accept the minutes as written; Beth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance Report:

Treasurer Mike Rhaney said the church is "off to a fantastic start" in 2022, with income in January and February exceeding income in those months in 2021. Regular giving was impressive in January, but down a bit in February. The 2022 budget, which the Finance Team "adopted on faith", has proved prescient.

Rector's Report:

Stephanie has assigned the 2022 Vestry Ministry Liaisons:

Music and Worship - Julian

Outreach - Beth and Allison

Finance - John

Buildings & Grounds - Bill

Communications - Josh

Pastoral Care - George

Youth and Children - Kim

Social Justice - Anne, Stephanie

Vestry support for Youth Committee - Stephanie, John, Perry, Anne

The Rev. Canon Dr. Sally French, Canon for East Regional Ministry and Collaborative Innovation, offered to meet with the Vestry at the June 12 Vestry meeting to discuss how to handle things during Stephanie's sabbatical. She also offered to help the Vestry with strategic planning for the future. The Vestry members are open to meeting two evenings other than the regularly scheduled Vestry meeting.

Stephanie reported that two good candidates for our permanent organist have been interviewed, and two vendors have offered quotes and plans for the sound system for the Nave.

The newly formed Caregivers Group, which will meet bi-weekly, is so popular that they may have to split it into two groups.

Stephanie told the Vestry that Karen McGugan, who was endorsed by the Vestry last year to begin the ordination process, was delayed in the process for a few months but has now been approved by the Bishops for postulancy. Jeremy Clos, who was endorsed at the last meeting to begin the process towards ordination, has decided to take a pause to deal with his ill father but will be back next year.

The Vestry voted unanimously to endorse Phillip Bass, our intern, to be ordained to the transitional diaconate. He will take a break during the month of May but then will begin on June 1 as Assistant Rector at Nativity. He expects to be ordained as a priest in mid-December.

Wardens' Reports:

Senior Warden John Oldham thanked Mike Rhaney for the Finance Report. He asked for volunteers to schedule as Vestry Liaisons for Holy Week and Easter.

Junior Warden Bill Sena noted that the security cameras are spotting teens on the campus dealing drugs, playing on the playground, and riding motorbikes through the Kinder Garden. Unfortunately, we can't do anything about this since the police will not respond unless the perpetrators are caught in the act. Signs about trespassing haven't worked.

A workday is scheduled for March 19 and April 9 to spruce up the campus for Easter. Masks will not be required outdoors, and indoors masks are at the volunteers' discretion. Compliments are abounding for how beautiful the Memorial Garden now looks.

Team Reports:

Josh Booth, Communications Team liaison, reported that we will include text messaging to the congregation as soon as we can provide parishioners a means to give their written consent, as required by law. This has been in the works for several years, and it's finally going to happen. It will cost \$278/year.

The Social Justice committee asked the Vestry to approve giving the loose plate offering on April 3 to the Raleigh-Apex NAACP Scholarship Fund, and that was approved by voice vote. A year ago, \$8000 was raised by Nativity, funding eight college students. At the Day of Giving in December 2021, \$6300 was donated, and the committee would like to match the first gift. Other donations by check or online will be solicited in Glad Tidings.

OneWake, an organization of faith communities and others, has been successful in urging the City Council to include affordable housing and other issues in their planning. Because membership in the organization has a financial component, the Vestry must approve Nativity joining. In April or May, one of the OneWake leaders will attend the Vestry meeting to outline what the organization does and seek approval for membership.

Cards (100) were sent to Nativity youth from the Vestry this week telling them that we are thinking of them. There will be a followup outreach. There wasn't much interest in volunteering to develop intergenerational events, so that's on hold - for now.

The Peace Library already has 50 books and will be ready by Easter for the structure housing them to be built.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Christensen
Clerk of the Vestry

The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for April 19 at 7 pm.