

Church of the Nativity  
Minutes of the Vestry  
June 21, 2022

**Attending:** Stephanie Allen, Phillip Bass, Stephanie Sumner, Beth Crow, Julian McKimmon, Josh Booth, George Douglas, Anne Krouse, Perry Suk, Anne Stokes, Becky Showalter, and Gail Christensen.

The meeting was convened at 7:05 pm. The meeting began with a discussion of Luke 9:37-43.

**Convention Delegates**

Phillip proposed the following to be approved as delegates to the Diocesan Convention to be held on November 18-19: Jeremy Clos, Alicia Lester-Bodford, and Ryan Parker. Beth moved that Jeremy Clos, Alicia Lester-Bodford, and Ryan Parker be elected by the Vestry as delegates to the Diocesan Convention. George seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A fourth delegate is permitted for Nativity. This person will be approved at the next meeting.

**Finance and Stewardship Reports**

Nativity is doing well, giving has been steady, and expenses are in line with the budget. There have been several staff changes since the budget was approved at the beginning of 2022 (organist, youth minister, new clergy position), which are now reflected in the budget.

Clergy compensation includes a housing allowance to help reduce federal, not state, taxes. Stephanie moved that Phillip Bass, who has joined the clergy staff as Associate Rector, take 100% of his compensation as his housing allowance. Stephanie Sumner seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**Rector's Report**

Stephanie introduced Anne Stokes, who will be the next Clerk of the Vestry. Anne comes to Nativity from St. Mark's, where she participated in the Diocese's Lay Ministry program.

Stephanie will go with the Youth Trip this week to Oregon.

She is getting ready for her 4-month sabbatical, from August 1 to November 26. She is looking for a coordinator for the Youth and Children's programs, either volunteer or paid, and is lining up supply priests to celebrate services during her absence. She has secured George Douglas as chair of the Stewardship campaign, and Dave McKinnon and Alfred Christensen will help run the campaign in Stephanie's absence.

Stephanie has lined up Jo Dykes to provide Adult Formation classes on women in the Bible, and Ryan Parker and Marion Thullbery may also run classes. The elementary and middle school children will return to classes on September 11, meeting between the services, and high schoolers will meet after the 10:30 service. Beth will do something once a month with the children about the Peace Library.

While Stephanie is gone, the Vestry rep of the day will make the announcements during Sunday services, being sure to welcome the online audience. Josh has made coffee after some

services, and a group of parishioners will be put together to continue this important part of fostering our community.

The annual meeting is set for November 13 between the Sunday services. Stephanie and Phillip will not be in attendance, so the Wardens and Vestry members will run the show, including reports from the Finance, Outreach, Youth and other teams, and electing five new Vestry members.

Stephanie will return on Advent 1. Christmas Eve services may be outside in a tent (already scheduled) if weather permits, at 2 pm and 4 pm. Inside services will be at 9 or 9:30 pm. Christmas Day is a Sunday, and there will be only one service, at 10:30 am.

### **One Wake Recommendation from Outreach/Social Justice Teams**

Becky Showalter came before the Vestry to present a proposal from the Outreach and Social Justice Teams regarding OneWake. OneWake is an organization made up of more than 40 church congregations, including 5 Episcopal churches in Wake County, as well as non-profit associations, with a total membership of over 50,000 households. The Vestry had met with the Executive Director of OneWake, Devin Ross, at the May Vestry meeting. The Diocese of NC's bishops are supportive of the group's work.

Based on discerning the community's needs, OneWake's mission is concentrated at present on affordable housing, education, and racial reconciliation, advocating to town and city councils and other actions.

Membership in OneWake requires that a congregation/association commit to providing 1% of the operating budget. That would be about \$5000 from Nativity. A group of about 4-5 parishioners would be needed to lead our efforts, spending about 5 hours/month (in total) on OneWake participation.

For those who see the world around us and ask, "But what can I do?" this is another way to do something. It is comparable to Nativity's other commitments, such as contributing to BackPack Buddies or Habitat for Humanity building, etc., but rather than direct help this would mean working for systemic change that will make a difference.

Stephanie moved that the Vestry adopt the recommendation of the Outreach and Social Justice teams that Nativity become a member organization of OneWake, beginning in January 2023. Stephanie Sumner seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The \$5000 will not come out of the 2022 operating budget. It was recommended that the Stewardship campaign mention our OneWake participation, and that articles be written for Glad Tidings, Facebook, etc.

### **Action Items from Vestry Retreats with Canon Sally French**

Members of the Vestry met in May and June with Canon Sally French of the NC Diocese to discuss future plans for Nativity. Sally felt the congregation was excellent at outward focus, but needs to care for our own spiritual nourishment as well. No master plan was decided; all systems are working well, so just keep things stable and keep on keeping on.

**Pilgrimage in 2023**

Beth and Stephanie spoke about plans that had been in the discussion stage when the pandemic hit and were postponed indefinitely. Beth has offered to coordinate a pilgrimage, mostly of adults but maybe older teens as well, to sites in Alabama of the Civil Rights movement, such as Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma. This would be in June 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Christensen  
Clerk of the Vestry

**The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for July 26 at 7 pm.**