

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Fayetteville, AR**

The mission of St. Paul's is to explore and celebrate God's infinite grace, acceptance, and love.

Vestry Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2023 - 5:30pm – St. Paul's Conference Room / Zoom Video conference

Vestry Members and Attendance

Present

Jeremy Oxford; Sr. Warden (zoom), Connor Eldridge (zoom), Hannah Clark, Jerry Rose, Michael Hollomon, Julie Chambers, Kristin Payne, Elizabeth (Liz) Rosen, Peter Quinlisk, Robert Murphy, Jeannie Whayne; Jr. Warden

Absent

Myria Allen

Other Attendees

Evan Garner – Rector, Sara Milford – Associate Rector (zoom), David McMath – Treasurer, Chad Cox – Clerk

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

- Evan called to order at 5:32 PM with an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

- Minutes approved with addition of spiritual gifts under Stewardship.
- Minutes not sent in advance of meeting in error.

Treasurer's Report

- Report received
 - YTD financials are fine, but April expenses aren't posted yet (building repairs)
 - Giving varies, pattern is a little different but not concerning.
 - Non-pledged giving is up through March.
 - Reconciliation is almost caught up.

Committee Reports

- Formation
 - Denise Greathouse accepted Tippy Chair
 - Golden Thread design group finishing up and hopes for a test group this fall.
 - *Ladder to the Light* selected as the book for a Parish reading group.
 - VBS plans completed.
 - Could use a few more volunteers for children's church and formation, summer schedule coming out soon.
 - May 10th - appreciation dinner for volunteers.

- Offsite Request – Silver Dollar City as a thank you for the youth group’s hard work for VBS.
 - Motion approved
- Youth Minister Update
 - 4 applications, 1 withdrew, zoom interviews underway (except for Curtis as he’s known)
 - Complicated as Samantha needs a change from St. Paul’s and will be leaving. Tough to lose and hire at the same time. AND Curtis would like another year to prepare for seminary.
 - Recommended by Evan with input: Suspend Youth Minister search for now keeping Curtis in that role, and open new search for Formation Director instead. Posted by June 1, ideally.
- Outreach
 - No official report at this time, but updates on...
 - IAF – Industrious Areas Foundation – community organization of leaders to bring the pressures that people are facing to the forefront. How to alleviate suffering related to those issues. Long-term engagement encouraged.
 - Possible budget item in the fall, IAF desires 1% of operating budget, but may be a stretch. Can start identifying potential leaders within St. Paul’s prior to official affiliation.
 - Looked at it before and unsure if it’s a good fit for us or what they do in the community.
 - Will be incorporated in the 175th celebration to highlight St. Paul’s impact in the community.
- Parish Life
 - Report via email
 - Easter Vigil: Grace requested that Parish Life to assist in organizing and simplifying brunch.
 - 175 Celebration update
 - *Friday, May 19 - Purchase tickets by Thursday, May 4 online and in bookstore
 - \$50-Catered served dinner, dessert, drinks, and Music (Jack is organizing)
 - linens
 - *Saturday, May 20 - Boundary walk 9:00-11ish
 - *Sunday, May 21 - Wear 175 t-shirts-order by Sunday, April 30
 - Parish picnic - Vestry organizes - Sign up to grill, set up, clean up (how many of each?) – sending soon.
 - Parishioners bring items-changed alphabet for more sides.
 - Ok to use disposables? Grace has products – use what we have as it’s ok.
 - Jeremy and Kim - organizing activities.

- Patty - organizing adult forum.
 - *Tuesday, May 23 - Music Event 7:00 with light snacks and wine to follow
- Properties
 - Roofing work on church building has been started and may be completed...flat roofs and some patching on Parish Hall. All asphalt shingles are passed their life.
 - Bassett Building
 - Gathered two estimates for ongoing HVAC systems repair/replacement. (see attached), but need to be for the same items (apples to apples)
 - Let Mac decide what we need and then do it.
 - There are drywall and painting that need to be done (insurance estimate received)
 - By report, the tenant is not happy that things are moving so slowly.
 - It also has exposed our current system that does not have clear lines of communication and/or decision making.
 - Perhaps the church makes a poor landlord and in the coming month will explore whether we should have a property manager or a more streamlined path to meeting our responsibilities. Recommendations to vestry thus making the next meeting more productive. If anyone has input please share with a member of the committee.
 - Myria would like to step away from this committee. Add another member? Maybe John Payne or Conner Eldridge.
- Finance
 - FDIC Update
 - Not to be concerned about at this time with our current balance.
 - Did discover that we could keep the checking account at a lower level and put extra in a money market for additional interest.
 - Capital Campaign Update
 - Potential chairs discussion lead to a timeline that we won't be ready for September and looks at other ways to reduce debt from Bassett purchase. Maybe focus on the payments toward the principal rather than interest.
- Stewardship
 - No report

Wardens' Reports

- Sr. Warden
 - The downstairs bathrooms are in use. A few more things need to be completed before final sign off and issue of final check.
 - The water damage in the Basset Building was assessed by our insurance company and they sent us about \$14,000 - less our \$1,000 deductible.
 - Working with Morris Hanks, the contractor that helped us with the bathrooms, who can have a crew over next weekend to make the needed repairs.

- Curtis, his brother, and I dug a hole and cemented a pole for a new basketball goal outside the youth building next to the parking lot.
- Jr. Warden
 - Golden Thread: Finding, Following, and Sharing Your Spiritual Gifts – ready for delivered to clergy. 2 semesters long and fairly intense with readings, etc. Good work.

Clergy Reports

- Rector report via email
 - Discernment for 5 people – sign that the spirit is moving in our area.
 - Feels energized but sad about Samantha leaving.
 - Once Holy Week passed, the balance is better and at peace.
 - Parish retreat was wonderful and will be planned for next year.
- Associate Rector Report via email
 - Mentioned hospital information release process. Encourage the person to let the clergy know so they will know in the future. Big Change.
 - Praised her great work for the church.
- Deacon
 - No report but praised her for her work in the community and church.

Other Business

- Vulnerable Adult Policy proposal (attached), centers around Caring Friends but applicable to several areas. To be shared with all volunteers and staff.
 - Motion to accept as written was approved.

Coming up - Reminders

- May 6th – Newcomers welcome reception at 5pm.
- May 7th – Bishop's official visit – his last here. Reception to follow.
- Evan's Sabbatical starts June 1

Adjournment

- Closed with a prayer at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chad Cox – Vestry Clerk

Next Meeting of the Vestry: May 22, 2023, at 5:30 PM in the board room/online.