

St. Mary of the Hills

Vestry Minutes: March 15, 2020

Via Video Conference – led from Barrett Room

(On Site – Fr. Andrew Hege and Elizabeth Sudderth (Clerk))

Members Present: Chip Myers (Sr. Warden), Tim Silver (Jr. Warden), Sterling Hutcheson, Jim West, E. B. Springs, Doug Galke, Bill Furr, Roy McGraw, and Jane Milner

Vestry Members Absent: Sharon Ballaglia, Crawford Cleveland, Lisa Kauffman, Amanda White

Others Present: Fr. Andrew Hege (Rector), Elizabeth Sudderth (Clerk)

Fr. Andrew called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Sterling Hutcheson, with a second from Chip Myers.

A correction was submitted by Chip Myers prior to the meeting and reflected in the February meeting

A motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting was made by Sterling Hutcheson with a second from Jim West.

Open Devotion: Fr. Andrew opened the meeting with reflection on our new reality and how to gather in these times. He shared reflections on the 1918 flu pandemic and ways of dealing with a pandemic. He shared a prayer from the Book of Common Prayer which tells us “to trust in God in all times.”

We need to encourage each other and check on parishioners.

Amanda White is traveling in England now and Andrew has reached out to her regarding travel restrictions.

Financial Report: Chip Myers presented this report in Amanda White’s absence.

St. Mary’s is in a very healthy financial position. 2019 Pledges - \$426,544 (typo shows \$126,544)

Questions were about restricted account expenses:

Heifer Account was \$0’d out as funds were sent to complete an Ark
Smith/Carlson Endowment – Fr. Andrew will follow-up with Joe Raulerson

Roy McCraw had a question regarding restricted vs. non-restricted

Fr. Andrew – Memorials - Line # 7112 -00 – Memorials are usually spent on vestments, church appointments, etc.

Fr. Andrew, Amanda White and the Finance Committee are working on a summary and how each restricted account is used and the last time each was used. Questions have been asked in the past. Some see restricted funds as not healthy. When folks give funds for a restricted purpose.

Fr. Andrew shared that due to the pandemic our cash flow could be impacted as churches will be called upon to meet community needs.

A motion to accept the Financial Report was made by Bill Furr with a second from Jim West.

Fr. Andrew will keep us updated on Amanda White.

Tour of Homes Leadership Updates: Chairs: Joellyn Gibbons – Tour - Dean Hamric – Gala

Thanks to Roy McCraw especially for making these connections.

Sub-committee chairs are beginning to work and a list of these chairs has been submitted.

Tour of Homes – new checking account funds to be designated to start this year. Acct. # 713300 – Missions Fund. Roy McCraw made a motion, with a second from Bill Furr to allocate \$2,000 from last year account to use this year. A recommendation from the Executive Committee was made to also leave funds as seed money for next year's tour as well. These funds will be transferred when Amanda White returns.

COVID-19 in our community – Andrew shared information from Bishop Jose:

No events will be held until at least the end of March and this decision will be re-evaluated then.

Fr. Andrew will hold a virtual gathering each Sunday of Morning Prayer.

Fr. Andrew is working with the rectors at St. Luke's, Boone and Holy Cross, Valle Crucis on offerings through technology. He is also researching offerings from the Episcopal Church.

Fr. Andrew emphasized that there is a need for us all to be connected and he is dividing the church directory in 12 parts for each vestry member to check one time per week with parishioners. Please ask what they may need and share our prayers and concerns for them. Please pass any pastoral needs to Fr. Andrew such as depression, illness, etc. Ask if they may need groceries or other essentials.

Tomorrow local faith communities will have a meeting via Zoom to evaluate community needs such as children needing meals they are missing at school. Financial resources may be requested from our parish soon.

Staff Plan: Billy did thorough cleaning and sanitizing yesterday. Fr. Andrew and Greta Wilson will be at the church tomorrow. Fr. Andrew is urging staff to stay at home if ill or in contact with someone who is ill. Volunteers have been asked not to come to the church. AA Meetings have been asked not to meet here as there is not enough room for social distancing.

Several questions were asked about outside spaces available – Zoom meetings a possibility, text, e-mail chains for support. Fr. Andrew will touch base with AA contact again this week.

Regarding COVID-19 – Chip Myers expressed concern about the Tour of Homes being held this year. Should publicity be done starting now as usual?

Bill Furr asked if this will be better in the summer? Possible date of a deadline to make a decision were discussed. Sterling Hutcheson voiced the same concerns as Chip Myers.

Chip Myers suggested no publicity until after the March 27th Executive Committee meeting regarding the Tour of Homes. Fr. Andrew agreed.

Bill Furr asked if the Vestry should give authority to the Executive Committee to make a decision to cancel the Tour of Homes?

Concern was voiced that someone else could pick up the Tour. Fr. Andrew will follow-up with E.B. Springs regarding "ownership" of the tour.

Tim – Jr. Warden's Report:

Basement water problem: Tarheel Basement suggests a phase-one fix where water came in during last heavy rain (front part of basement) at a cost of \$4,300 to do repair. This would include repair gutter, new pump and site prep work, to be paid out of Capital Improvements Holding Account (Restricted Account #7129-00)

A question was raised about this estimate – is it the not-to-exceed cost or could it cost more? This is a best estimate not guaranteed amount.

Tim Silver stated the work needs to be done. The Executive Committee has discussed at length two pieces of work needed.

Chip Myers made a motion, with a second from Roy McCraw to allocate \$4,300 for this repair. Fr. Andrew clarified that the basement repair is in three parts. The wall between back room and section which is not sealed is where the water comes in during heavy rains. Also, some roof drains have become blocked.

Chip – Sr. Warden’s Report:

Chip Myers complimented Fr. Andrew on this morning’s service.

Chip Myers has changed the church’s phone message to update no services are being held and contact information for Fr. Andrew and Greta Wilson.

Chip Myers supports Fr. Andrew’s decision to cancel services.

Fr. Andrew expressed his thanks to the Chip and Tim for their help and support.

It was expressed that COVID-19 is a marathon, not a sprint. More decisions to come.

Sterling Hutcheson made a motion, with a second from Bill Furr to adjourn at 3:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk