**St. James’ Episcopal Church Vestry**

**Minutes**

May 26, 2021

**Attendance:** Alyson Banks**,** Mitch Chester, Rich Connell, Lisa Gleason,

Bob Dugger**,** Don Hamer, Deborah O’Donnell, Joyce Reynolds, Cheryl Turner

**Absent:** Sam Hoyt, Erin Perrelli

**Opening Prayer**

1. Learning Experience, *Love Is The Way,* Bishop Curry, Chapters 10, 11, 12. These chapters are the conclusion to the book. Discussion followed reflecting the following question:

*Bishop Curry ends his book with encouragement. “So don’t give up on love. Listen to it. Trust it. Give into it. Obey it.” Are you at risk of giving up on love? Consider which of the above actions—listen, trust, give in, obey—you most need to grab ahold of today. (Kate Bowler)*

1. Approval of 4/28/21 Approval of the minutes with additions and corrections. Motion to accept Bob Dugger and second by Joyce Reynolds. Unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report – Bob Dugger

Revenue: Operating fund decreased significantly due to funds that transfer in and out of this account. Loss of revenue: Pledges were $9000 under budget, Easter offering $900 under budget and additional loss of $3400 fund-raising monies. Bob, Jeanne and Joyce will provide a further analysis regarding loss of pledge monies. Possibly may be due to virtual attendance rather than live attendance in the church.

Expenses: Under budget $5700 due to salaries falling under budget, facility expenses under budget, Outreach Committee under budget

* Overall, we remain $2000 ahead of the budgeted expenses even with revenue losses.

Joining Jesus Campaign pledge $616, 000. We have received $207, 500 balance due $408, 500. One large pledge of $250,000 that we have not received any portion. 15% of individuals have paid their entire pledge to the Joining Jesus Campaign, follow up needed with Diocese as to how they are sending reminders to pledgers.

* Discussion regarding counting the offerings now that church has reopened. We need to rethink collection of offerings and the deposit without counters being assigned. Joyce Reynolds will coordinate.
* Becky made a motion to accept the treasure’s report as presented by Bob Dugger. Second; Joyce Reynolds. Unanimous approval

1. Discussion Items

* Ed Crow –Increasing St. James’ Community Involvement

Historical review of loss of pledge units over the years. Focused on amount of past money dedicated to maintain the physical plant and not emphasis on increasing membership. Ed Crow proposes the formation of a group which he has offered time and funding for a group including Vestry leadership to increase membership. Ideas may include further collaboration with St. Luke’s, better advertisement in Glastonbury Citizen inviting community to participate in St James’ events, possibly offering a week day care

* Racial Justice work - Becky Lee

First meeting of the core team scheduled for June 1st. Laying a foundation together. Developing a statement of purpose. What are our strengths? Who can we collaborate with in the community? Which Glastonbury community groups and resources can we join with?

What is God calling us to do? Don suggested a real opportunity and potential synergy between Ed Crow’s proposal and the group for Racial Justice.

* Feedback, Observations of May 23rd Re-Opening

Successful re-opening, 72 attendees. Sign-up no longer required. Glastonbury is in a low transmission zone. Re-opening Committee meets tomorrow night and will review in more detail the feedback and survey results. Feedback very positive, many comments we should have opened sooner. Few negatives, the van too noisy and needs attention, may have “over ushered the opening.” Good work to everyone.

* Alyson raised a concern after hearing a concern from a community member regarding the “St James Cemetery” how overgrown it is and poorly attended. Explanation that the cemetery has no connection to the church. Deb will reach out to Pat Goodrich who has connection to the cemetery.
* Review Guidelines for Outside Groups (See Attachment) Lisa Gleason motioned to accept the guidelines as presented; Bob Dugger second. Unanimously accepted and approved.

Next meeting date: June 23, 2021 at 7PM

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 PM Closing Prayer