

St. James' Episcopal Church, Glastonbury
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
February 23, 2022
7:00 pm on Zoom

Attendance: Mitch Chester, Rich Connell, Fred Faulkner, Don Gardner, Becky Lee, Debbie O'Donnell, Joyce Reynolds, the Rev. Denise Cabana

Not in attendance: Alison Banker, Bob Dugger, Erin Perrelli, Cheryl Turner

The Vestry meeting was called to order with an **Opening Prayer** by the Rev. Denise.

The Vestry broke into breakout groups for our "**Learning Experience**" to discuss chapters 5 and 6 from *Quietly Courageous*. Notes included: Where churches are today, need to listen differently, figure out new ways to "do" church, pay attention to complacency, our mission statement? time to revise, need to focus on representation,

Checking in: Welcome to Fred (Faulkner) and Don (Gardner)

Discussion 7:42 pm

- Clint Dixon had been invited to the Vestry meeting to explain the "Charter for Compassion" as had been discussed by the *Building a Blessed Community* Team. The Charter was initially described in a TED Talk by author Karen Armstrong (and subsequent founder). The organization/charter transcends religion and promotes work to grow compassionate action. The premise is that the principle of compassion is at the center of morality and religion, (i.e., the "Golden Rule"). There are approximately 150,000 who have "signed on" in 180 countries, (2 million in 2009). The question before the vestry is if St. James' wants to join a network of networks and "affirm" this compassionate community and grow compassionate action. There is no cost. Members of the Vestry are encouraged to visit the website: charterforcompassion.org How would we present this to St. James'?
- Ventilation update: Don Gardner and Mitch Chester reported that the selected contractor began work on the church/Nave ventilation/air filtration today (February 23). This work involves duct work in the basement to assist in drawing air to and from the south side of the church.
 - Don Gardner had recently attended a professional training for safe air filtration and learned that the portable air filtration units we purchased in the fall for various locations in the Parish Hall and Office, *should be placed higher in the spaces, such as on a table* in order to better capture circulating air to be filtered.
- The Rev. Denise reported that the **Parochial Report** had been completed by Jodi for submission to ECCT. Also, our membership rolls have been reduced from 310 to 279

after having purged members who have not been heard from in 4 years. A *motion was made* by Debbie O'Donnell and seconded by Becky Lee to *approve* the Parochial Report so that it can be submitted to the ECCT. The vestry voted unanimously to approve this motion.

- Corrections were made to the **January Vestry Meeting Minutes**. Rich Connell *made a motion* to accept the January minutes as corrected; Don Gardner seconded the motion. The vestry voted unanimously to approve this motion.
- The **Treasurer's Report** had been previously sent to the Vestry. Since Treasurer Bob Dugger was not in attendance, the Rev. Denise read notes sent to her from Bob. That is, the church needs to receive \$15,000 a month in pledges to keep up with expenses. In January, pledges received totaling approximately \$13,000. A *motion was made* by Don Gardner and seconded by Rich Connell to approve the Treasurer's report as read. The vestry voted unanimously to approve this motion.
- At **Don Donegan's passing**, he left **\$5,751 to St. James'**, with no restrictions. The Vestry decided that \$5,000 should be allotted to the **Endowment** and \$751 should be allotted to St. James' **music program**, specifically toward the fees for the upcoming *Hot Cat Jazz* ensemble's appearance in June. Don Donegan had been faithfully involved in St. James' music program in his earlier years. Don Gardner *made a motion* that was seconded by Mitch Chester to allot Don Donegan's bequest in this manner. The vestry voted unanimously to approve this motion.
- The Rev. Denise described a proposal for **3 Soup Suppers for a Lenten series**, led by new parishioner, Sheri Dursin, author of *Hearing God's Whisper*. Three Tuesday evenings are planned for soup at 6:00 and the program from 6:30-8:00 pm. The Vestry agreed to these plans, which will alternate locations between St. James' and St. Luke's.
- There were a number of suggestions from the small "breakout" groups held after church on January 23. The list will be tabled for discussion until the Vestry Retreat on March 18 and 19.
- The Rev. Denise reminded the Vestry to read *Part Time is Plenty* for discussion at the Vestry retreat.
- The next Vestry meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 30, on "Zoom."

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm after a closing prayer by Debbie O'Donnell.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie O'Donnell 3/27/22