Saint James Episcopal Church

Glastonbury, CT 06033

Vestry Minutes

May 30, 2018

**Present:**  Denise Cabana, Bea Farlekas, John O’Donnell, Jeannette Brown, Jeff Brown, Janet Donston, Lisa Gleason, Mary Jo Logan, Rod Neaveill, Susan Wright

**Absent:** Mitchell Chester, Jay Gibson, Cheryl Turner, Bob Dugger, Joyce Reynolds

**Vestry Photos 7:00 - 7:15 p.m.:** Dan Aramini was present to take photos of all new Vestry members and others whose photo is missing. All photos will have the same background and will be displayed in the foyer.

**Dwelling in the Word:** 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

**Learning Session:** Chapter 4 – “The Agile Church” by Dwight J. Zscheile

After discussing the chapter together, the group divided into two in order to discuss the end of chapter questions and brainstorm on ideas on how to “connect more deeply with our neighbors”. Ideas put forth included:

* Continuing our community wide activities such as movies and concerts on the lawn but enhance the experience by having parishioners play “host” by serving snacks and beverages to guests. Use this as an opportunity to start conversations and engage with the community. Also, we need to encourage our own parishioners to attend these events. Vestry members especially.
* We need to engage in conversation with each other better – within our own pews. Listen to each other’s stories.
* Engage with other local churches.
* Continue to build on things we already have going on, in small ways.
* Engage with the Immigrant community – could one concert be a Latin American theme?

**Information:**

* New Hymnals are here. Jodi is working on putting in the nameplates. Denise thought the estimate for funds raised was about $1,200.

**Decision & Discussion Items:**

1. Minutes from the April 25, 2018 meeting were accepted and approved without changes.
2. Sharing a Christian Ed/Youth Leader with Saint Mark’s – Denise Cabana

Denise has had a conversation with Cheryl at Saint Mark’s about combining resources to hire a full time Youth Leader (instead of each church hiring a part time leader) whose time would be split between the two churches. This person would not teach Sunday school, but would alternate Sundays between Saint James and Saint Mark’s as the coordinator. He/She would also run a Teen Youth group which would include teens from both churches. The Episcopalian and Lutheran faiths are very similar and the hope would be this person would have a background in one of the faiths. Since this is a full time position, benefits would be required. Denise asked the Vestry for feedback on whether she should continue this discussion with Cheryl. There were several questions surrounding how this would be administered, but there was a consensus to continue discussions.

1. Newcomer’s Dinner – Jeannette Brown

The Newcomer’s Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, June 9th at 5:30 at Saint James. Invitations were mailed several weeks ago to approximately 60 households. As of today there have only been 10 responses. With only 10 days to order food/plan the event, Jeannette asked the Vestry whether this event should be cancelled or should we make calls to people who haven’t RSVP’d to see if we can increase the attendance. Jeff Brown indicated that he felt it was worth making calls and others agreed. Everyone took 5 households to call by Monday, June 4th. If attendance will be less than 25, the event will be cancelled. Perhaps a breakfast or brunch in the Fall would be better attended.

1. The “No Fundraiser” fundraising letter – Jeannette Brown

Jeannette presented Draft #4 which was written to include all the Vestry feedback provided via email over the last couple weeks. Vestry voted to accept this version as final. Jeannette will move forward. Jeff Brown suggested it be talked about in church, email blasts, etc. so that it doesn’t get lost “at the bottom of the mail pile”. Others agreed. Also, there was consensus that all Vestry members will make a donation so that we can say this project is 100% backed by the Vestry.

1. Treasurer’s Report – Denise Cabana presented on behalf of Bob Dugger

Bob Dugger was absent but provided Denise with the Treasurer’s report via email which she read to the Vestry.

* + YTD as of 4/30/18 we are a net $26,800 ahead of budget. We started the year $30,000 ahead of budget so we have slipped a little. The cushion is needed for the summer months.
  + For the month of April, we are $4,600 short of budget. This is due to the fact that we were $1,100 short on Easter offerings, and $1,800 short on the monthly pledge income. Also, we overspent by $1,600 due to utilities, buildings and ground maintenance and administrative expenses.
  + We remain in good position with our fund balances (although we are heading toward the leaner portion of the year) with our general fund at $28,000.

1. Vanguard Fund – Denise Cabana

Denise asked Vestry to approve the movement of funds from the current Saint James Vanguard investment account to an account with Thrivent. Vanguard has been unresponsive and unimpressive with the management of the account. We know Thrivent and are confident they will be responsive. All agreed.

1. Supply Priests – Denise Cabana

Denise will be away for two weeks in a row at the end of October/beginning of November. The budget does not currently have an allowance for Supply Priests. She asked Vestry for input on having 2 weeks in a row of Morning Prayer. Decision was made that we need to have Supply Priest for one of the Sundays.

1. Chairs & Tables – John O’Donnell, Denise Cabana

We have the opportunity to obtain a supply of stacking plastic student chairs and some heavy folding round tables used in a school cafeteria through Marie Dixon’s contact. Discussion about this ensued and decision was reached that we will pass on taking this furniture at this time.

1. Doug Cabana’s Medical Insurance – Denise Cabana

Denise asked for Vestry approval to adjust the reimbursement process so that moving Doug off of her insurance does not cost her/Saint James more in taxes. Vestry agreed.

1. Lawn maintenance – John O’Donnell

We currently have a lawn service mowing the grass. However Pat Goodrich has donated a Toro lawn mower for church use. It needs service and will be ready to use in a few weeks. The Men’s Club will take over mowing as soon as it is ready.

**After closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03p.m.**

**Next Vestry Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 27th at 7:00p.m.**