

Approved Vestry Council Minutes

In-Person and Via Zoom

September 21, 2021

Present:

Mike Cherwa (RC 22)
Bonnie Startt (E 24)
Matthew Wood (RC 23)
Charlie Mills (E 23)
Dc. Gary Harmeyer
Julia Hatcher (Secretary)

Whitney McDaniel (E 23)
Anna Crosby (RC 24)
David Dickerson (E 24)
Jackie Lucas (RC 22)
Fr. Mario Melendez (via zoom)

Absent:

Joann Mancuso (RC 23)
Mike Meehan (Finance)

Andrea Whyte (E 22)

Call to Order:

Whitney McDaniel called the meeting to order at 6:35pm with a prayer.

Spiritual Formation: Fr Mario lead discussion

Approve Meeting Minutes from August 17th and Annual Meeting and Election
Minutes were approved.

Finance Council Report: Treasurer – Mike Meehan (Treasurer) from Annual Meeting

Financial Update: August 2021

YTD Income: \$ 184,911.81
YTD Expense: \$ 158,378.03
YTD Excess: \$ 26,533.78

August Income: \$ 23,316.14
August Expenses: \$ 21,359.35
August Net Income: \$ 1,956.79

CLERGY REPORT

- Msgr. Raphael has been installed as pastor for St Luke's Parish. His additional responsibilities include being the Chaplain for Holy Apostles and Chaplain for San Lorenzo Spiritual Center in Virginia Beach.
- Both dioceses are very concerned with the Covid health metrics, so we have asked all members to wear masks while at church.
- Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th – October 15th) is a time for recognizing the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans. Fr. Mario is planning some events to mark the celebration.
- Fr Mario will Bless the Animals on October 3rd at 3pm.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND WARDEN

President: Matt Wood
Senior Warden: Whitney McDaniel

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Fellowship: Bonnie Startt & Mike Cherwa
Administration: Anna Crosby & David Dickerson
Social Ministry: Charlie Mills & Matt Wood
Liturgy: Jackie Lucas & Andrea Whyte
Christian Formation: Joann Mancuso & Whitney McDaniel

COMMITTEE REPORTS REVIEW

Administration
Liturgy
Social Ministry

- The children's playground will soon have the old weed barrier removed and the area graded. No definitive decision has been made beyond that for the area.
- It has been noted that some days when Dianne comes into work, she finds lights left on, AC thermostats set low and doors unlocked. A checklist will be provided for the last person to leave the building to ensure the building is secure.
- Prior to leaving Holy Apostles, Jim Byrd assembled a list of projects needing attention around the building and Mike Cherwa asked that Admin send to Vestry..
- In the future, it is hoped that committee chairs will not only receive how much has been spent from their budget, but also their remaining balance. That information will then be provided to the Committee Liaisons.
- Kelly Hormuth has requested more photos for our Facebook page.
- Whitney has been posting the Sunday service to our YouTube channel and has been getting views.
- The Girl Scouts have cleaned up the nursery and disposed of toys that are not suitable in a pandemic setting to meet with current Health and Safety measures. A "Thank You" note will be sent to the troop leader.

ECUMENISM & MEMBERSHIP / OUTREACH YEAR REVIEW

Ecumenism

- The library is now organized and Anne Campion will take it over from Mary Thomas.
- Jean Kock supplies ecumenical couple messages monthly for the ARChive.
- The date for the LARCUM conference is expected to be Friday, Dec 3rd and Saturday, Dec 4th. Physical location, or whether it will be offered only virtually, is unknown at this time.
- The Plarn group continues to meet on Thursdays.
- October is a month this year with five Sundays, so it is anticipated on the 5th Sunday homilies will include the topic of ecumenism.

Membership & Outreach

- 5,000 "Join In The Journey" flyers were printed and 1,027 were mailed on Sep 8th to the Midway Military Housing complex. There is a sufficient number left for a future mailing.
- We are trying to be more visible with doing event outside such as "Dog Walks Along the Boardwalk".
- Social events like Manga Qui and coffee hours will continue.
- We have been active in contacting parishioners during pandemic.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Fr. Mario's vacation request for Sunday, September 26. Rev. Gwen Mudd will officiate.

Approved.

Our 44th Anniversary is Oct 31st. This is a VC event and volunteers are needed.

There will be an evening reception at 3pm followed by an Ecumenical Prayer Service at 4pm. Volunteers thus far are Jackie, David and Deacon Gary.

Gathering updates

Updates on attendance is going well. It is hard to gauge the actual number for those watching online, because more than one person may be present under a single login.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fr. Mario's consultation with Bishop regarding non-Episcopal nominees for VC

The Bishop advised that the Canons are clear and the representatives for VC must be an Episcopalian.

Fall Fling – Finance Council to organize and report. Watching Covid metrics

This event has started to be organized and items are starting to come in for the silent auction. Some items will have a minimum bid request. If an item is not sold, it will be returned to the originator who will need to pick it up.

If Covid metrics become too bad the event will be canceled.

Lynne Larson is the coordinator. Anna Crosby is in charge of advertising and will be sending a solicitation letter out soon. Our Jewish community members will be invited and we will advertise the event locally.

It is anticipated that about 20 tables will fit on the sanctuary floor while providing for some social distancing.

Beer and wine will be available for a donation. Other alcohol will be BYOB.

Update from Jackie and Whitney on Vestry Council retreat located at Holy Apostles

We are still trying to secure a facilitator so we will delay the retreat until November 6th (to be confirmed). The location will be at HA.

Stewardship – pledges due 11/7 after stewardship talks

A letter will be sent out shortly regarding pledges and stewardship. Currently both co-chair positions for Stewardship are vacant. Two of the 4 weeks' talks on stewardship are covered by Finance Council members. Mike Cherwa and Lee Startt have been volunteered to give the other two "Stewardship Moments."

CEN (Christian Ecumenical Network) update – Charlie

Lynn Kennedy, the current head of CEN, is retiring and asked HA to consider taking lead. After consideration, it has been determined that HA is too small to make such a commitment. It was discussed that we should increase the visibility of CEN and include information in the ARChive. Fr. Mario thinks it's important for us to build relationships with the area churches involved with CEN so that we get to know them outside of seeing them at events.

- Fr Mario set up bible study "with food" .

- Julia to research and provide copy to Charlie to approve.

Update from Joann on accessibility to the building

Joann has arranged a couple of Rehab engineers in to assess our needs once she retires (early October).

Sanctuary aesthetics update – Gary

When we get an electrician in for the handicap accessible doors, we will have the person replace the piped electrical work that is currently on the wall behind the ambo and run an electrical line for a receptacle. Once that is completed, it is anticipated dry wall will be put up over the current cider blocks. This project has been in the talking stage for a long time but with live streaming of services, it has become more important as we try to portray a positive self-image.

VC meeting location during Girl Scouts building use

Girl Scouts will meet on Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall. On the weeks, where there is a conflict with the VC meeting, the VC will meet in the nursery.

Binder distribution – Update from Jackie and Whitney.

We are still in the progress of getting the files together for VC members' binders and should be distributed them at our next meeting. We are also looking at having a link from the website to these documents which will be password protected.

- Fr Mario will give contact info on new canon for Evangelism to Whitney for follow-up on building a member portal on our website

Flyer Distribution.

It was noted to be sure to include distributing flyers to Carolyn for Atlantic Shores, George and Lourdes Little for Westminster Canterbury, and search out Navy Lodging areas.

- Action item: start tracking metrics for fb and youtube usage so we can track on-line and in-person - Whitney

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS:

- Fr. Mario was paid his annual phone allowance per our letter of agreement.
- Anne Campion has volunteered to work in our library.
- The 'Parish Safety and Security Guide' has been sent to Safe Church and Administration committees.
- Executive Council Standard Operating Procedure document updated to include: 'Document in the minutes all co-pastor vacation requests approved by Vestry Council'.
- Updated organization chart - Stewardship moves under Finance Council.

ANNUAL RETREAT GOALS FOR 2020/21

Ecumenism Goal:

To educate current and future members of the Church of the Holy Apostles community about ecumenism, to increase understanding of why ecumenism holds special significance for our community; and to become a more visible ecumenical partner in the community.

Objective 1: Ensure that each member of the community is provided access to ready, updated resources, when needed and as available, to increase their knowledge and understanding of ecumenism.

Responsible Party: Ecumenical small committee and other community members, Christian Formation, Fellowship, Liturgy, and clergy

Objective 2: Increase visibility of Church of the Holy Apostles as an ecumenical/interfaith community through active representation and participation at ecumenical activities as sponsors/co-sponsors/active participants.

Responsible Party: Ecumenical small committee and other community members, Christian Formation, Fellowship, Liturgy, Social Ministry and clergy

Membership and Outreach Goal:

Continue to communicate Holy Apostles' mission, support our church members, and reach out to military and various groups to expand our Holy Apostles' community.

Objective 1: Ensure external communication outlets such as the website, Facebook, and YouTube receive content updates on a regular basis.

Responsible parties: Administration - Communications; Christian Unity

Objective 2: Reach out to HA members during the pandemic by calling, emailing, and/or sending cards and letters on a regular basis.

Responsible parties: Fellowship; Social Ministry; Vestry Council; Clergy

Objective 3: Reach out to local military and other local communities through focused advertising and by increasing participation in community events.

Responsible parties: Vestry Council, Administration – Communications; Social Ministry

Next Vestry Meeting: October 19th at 06:30pm

Keeping with the 3rd Tuesday of the month for Vestry Council meetings.

Adjournment was at 8:45pm with prayer over our new Warden and President.

Julia Hatcher

Secretary

September 19, 2021