

Approved Vestry Council Minutes Via Zoom February 16th, 2021 and March 2nd, 2021

Present:

Mike Cherwa (RC 22)	Whitney McDaniel (E 23)
Jackie Lucas (RC 22)	Joann Mancuso (RC 23)
Matthew Wood (RC 23)	Carolyn Ferguson (E 21)
Charlie Mills (E 23)	Andrea Whyte (E 22)
Kim Nichter (E 21)	Fr. Mario Melendez excused on Mar 2
Dc. Gary Harmeyer	Mike Meehan (Finance) excused Mar 2
Julia Hatcher (Secretary)	

Absent:

Kay Ashby (RC 21) Both Meetings

Call to Order:

Jackie Lucas called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with a prayer.

Time provided for Personal Reflection:

**Spiritual Formation: 16th Feb Dc. Gary reflected on Lent being a 40-day journey.
2nd Mar Dc. Gary reflection on Mark 8:34b take up your cross**

Approve Meeting Minutes from January 2021

Approved as reported.

Finance Council Report: Treasurer - Mike Meehan

Financial Update: 16 February 2021

YTD Income:	\$ 14,226.86
YTD Expense:	\$ 14,483.68
YTD Excess:	(\$256.82)
January Income:	\$ 14,226.86
January Expenses:	\$14,483.68
Net Income:	(\$256.82)

- January was a fairly normal month for expenses and contributions closely matched expenses.
- A year ago, our Capital Improvement Fund was at \$0 because of the roofing project. Through the generosity of members, our balance is now at \$22,126.37. Thank You!!!
- The VC approved a motion to state that Fr. Mario's housing allowance is tax exempt and will be stated as such on his W2. This item will be retroactive to January 1, 2020.

CLERGY REPORT

- Sunday Evening Prayer is going well, and more people are attending.

- Because we are still unable to have in-person services, ashes on Ash Wednesday will be given to members in their cars and will be sprinkled on the head rather than placed on the forehead (contact-free).
- Fr. Daniel Malingumu (pastor of Church of the Ascension) will celebrate Catholic Mass on the 1st and the 3rd Sundays of the month; Fr Mario will celebrate the Episcopal Holy Eucharist on the 2nd, 4th and 5th weeks of the month.
- Fr. Mario will celebrate Palm Sunday and the Saturday Easter Vigil; Fr Ven Ilano will celebrate Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday Masses.
- Fr Mario and Deacon Gary will jointly lead an ecumenical Good Friday service.
- Deacon Gary anticipates a new Catholic Chaplain will be named for Holy Apostles in June and start in July. It is hoped by that time we can return to our “one service/two liturgy” format.
- Fr Mario is also hosting Coffee Hour on Saturday and “Being a Christian in a Pandemic” for adult Christian formation.
- Mike Cherwa questioned if there was a chance we could regather in person by Easter? It would depend on Bishop Haynes’ decision (based on the positivity rate in the state).
- Dc Gary will resubmit a new seating plan that will suggest a safe capacity of 77 (58 in the sanctuary and 19 in the Fellowship Hall). It is hoped this will avoid the need for reservations.

NEW ITEMS:

- **Parochial Report**
The Episcopal Diocese’s Parochial Report was approved with a change of 3 people assisted in completion of the form: Julia Hatcher, Dianne Marzec and Mike Meehan (which is a change on page 1). Also explained on page 3, question 10 “Our congregation is actively addressing and working towards racial justice and reconciliation”. After discussion it was determined the answer was “no”. If the question allowed for comment, the answer may have been answered “yes”, but given the parameters of “yes” or “no”, the VC answered “no”. Dianne will make changes and circulate for signatures.
- **Should Christian Unity be a standalone committee?**
It was decided to keep Christian Unity as a Council not a committee but will enlist RC member to assist Charlie Mills with this ministry. As shown on the Organization chart it is not a committee and we are worried if we make it a committee we will not get the volunteers.
- **Purchase of new lawnmower (Matt Barnes) on Mar 2nd meeting**
It was agreed that a new lawn mower can be purchased from Land and Coats at a cost of approximately \$6,000 as the repairs would exceed \$4,000 and the mower is already 12 years old. Jackie will advise Lee to go ahead with the purchase.
- **Interfaith Disability Inclusion Conference (Whitney McDaniel)**
The Interfaith Disability Inclusion Conference was discussed, more information can be obtained from Whitney McDaniel, and the church will cover the \$25.00 registration fee (if requested).
- **Looking to appoint or otherwise identify official IT team to address technology concerns (expanding/connecting/updating YouTube links, etc.). This may involve a monetary commitment. On Mar 2nd meeting**

Kim will post an advertisement in the ARChive to see if anyone is willing to handle the YouTube account. Dianne will continue to post to the website and Facebook with Constant Contact. A possible resource that can be tapped is Ann Turner from the Episcopal Diocese. She is the technical social media support person for the diocese.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS:

- **Executive committee will meet Tuesday one week prior to Vestry Council meeting**
- **Church Directory has been updated**
This has been distributed to all Vestry Members.
- **Organizational Chart has been completed.**
This will be attached to minutes as reference.

ANNUAL RETREAT GOALS FOR 2020/21

REPORT FROM ECUMENISM AND MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- **Ecumenism:** Jackie, Andrea, Charlie, Kay, and Carolyn
- **Membership/Outreach:** Whitney, Matt, Kim, Mike, and Joann

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: Retired librarians (Jean Koch and Mary Thomas); Ecumenical small committee and other community members, Christian Formation, Fellowship, Liturgy, and clergy

Action Items:

- Update church library with books (*organize books according to topics) and other resources related to ecumenism.
- Provide monthly news, comments, articles including regular updates from ecumenical officers of both dioceses in the ARChive newsletter devoted exclusively to ecumenism.
- Incorporate ecumenism as an ongoing part of the Christian Formation Program.
- Plan ecumenical activities such as luncheons, talks with guest speakers, etc. and invite other churches to participate bi-annually.
- Request clergy sermons focus on ecumenism every 5th Sunday of the year.

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

Action Items:

- Make known to the congregation when ecumenical activities are occurring and encourage members to attend.
- Encourage members to “think outside the box” and to come up with quarterly ecumenical activities.

- Identify and provide presentations on ecumenical activities such as LARCUM, Week of Christian Unity, etc., to increase interest, no less than two weeks prior to the event.
- Plan ecumenical activities such as luncheons, talks with guest speakers, etc. and invite other churches to participate bi-annually.
- Encourage newer members to become involved through mentorship from members who have participated in these events.
- Include publication of events using social media (YouTube, Website, Facebook)
- Support diocesan ecumenical initiatives by sending representatives to be in attendance and to participate, if requested.

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

Action Items:

- YouTube Channel – Fr. Mario will continue working on this while we search for someone to help.
- Website/Social Media – Recruit volunteers to manage these communication outlets.
- Create and promote Holy Apostles "elevator-pitch" for all parishioners to share with others when opportunities arise. Get feedback from all committees.
- FYI: Our website currently defines who we are on the Welcome and About pages.

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

Action Items:

- Matt to contact military places, such as Fleet and Family Support Services, Navy lodging facilities, Relocation Services, Navy Gateway, ASYMCA (<https://www.asymca.org/who-we-are-hampton-roads>), to find out if we can distribute flyers/brochures at kiosks to publicize Holy Apostles.
- Joanne to contact military and civilian newspapers (Va. Pilot, Beacon, Clipper, Flagship, etc.).
- Create specialized Holy Apostles flyer/brochure for military and various communities and update current HA trifold.
- Look for community events in which we can participate as a faith community.
- Build relationships with support groups that serve persons with disabilities and other groups such as NAMI and Vets House.
- Add to Sunday service announcements: 'for those who would like to receive more information about HA, please go to our Website and subscribe.'
- Mail flyers to Midway Manor development (base housing, located at the corner of Princess Anne and Windsor Oaks Blvd, with approximately 150 family units comprised solely of active-duty military personnel and their families) using the EDDM service provided by the Post Office: <https://www.usps.com/business/every-door-direct-mail.htm>.

This is the mail that you receive that is addressed to "Postal Customer," and you can tailor it to be delivered to specific areas and mailing routes. They offer nonprofit mailing rates and depending on the size/weight of the flyer and number to distribute (the minimum is 200), postage would cost anywhere from \$50-100 total each time we did it. We may need to look at various approvals/forms/rules from both dioceses.

Committee Liaison Reports:

Social Ministry

Fellowship

Liturgy

Adult Christian Formation

March Vestry Council meeting will be March 16th at 6.30pm via a Zoom invite.

Adjournment was at 8.00pm

Julia Hatcher

Secretary

16th March, 2021