

# Approved Vestry Council Retreat and Minutes Via Zoom and in person October 17th, 2020

## Present:

Mike Cherwa (RC 22)  
Jackie Lucas (RC 22) Zoom  
Matthew Wood (RC 23)  
Charlie Mills (E 23)  
Kim Nichter (E 21)  
Fr. Mario Melendez  
Julia Hatcher (Secretary)

Whitney McDaniel (E 23) Zoom  
Joann Mancuso (RC 23)  
Kay Ashby (RC 21)  
Andrea Whyte (E 22)  
Carolyn Ferguson (E 21)  
Dc. Gary Harmeyer

## Absent:

## Call to Order:

Retreat started with a prayer from Fr Mario at 9.10am

## Introductions:

Each attendee gave a brief introduction of themselves.

## Goals:

Dc Gary broke down the past goals in four 4 main categories and opened discussion on what people want to achieve within that goal.

The main ideas are list below.

1. Ecumenism:
  - Engage the community in many different and multiple ways, beyond the confines of the building
  - Social Media
  - Reaching out to other Ecumenical communities
  - Define Ecumenism
  - Define Interfaith
  - LARCUM and encourage attendance
2. Membership:
  - Website, update with clear definition of what and who we are.
  - Military and Diversity membership
  - A specific event for membership
  - In-reach to our current membership that we have not had contact with since pandemic
  - Outreach to prior members who can now attend virtually
3. Outreach:
  - Use social media including our new YouTube Channel.
  - Explore building relationship with Twin Canals community.
4. Pandemic:
  - Nothing discussed specifically

## **Conclusions:**

It was decided to complete the wording for the actual goals in the next Vestry meeting but a few items are agreed upon and put in place where they can be.

- Social media – we plan to develop and increase our social media presence with the introduction of our YouTube account and posting our services to it. Encourage everyone to subscribe and share the contents.
- Use quote from past and present Popes to support our ecumenical positions, because the ecumenical message seems to get lost by the time it gets to the diocesan and local levels. Highlighting that we are not a “rouge community” and the fact that we are fully sanctioned.
- We need to find a way on how best to get our message out to the military and also how to increase diversity.
- Fr. Mario and Dc Gary both committed to preaching on ecumenism at least once a year each.
- To invite Msgr Joe Lehman to address our VC (it can be virtual) at least twice a year to keep up our visibility with him and the Richmond Diocese.
- Connect with other ecumenical communities within the US and world to share issues and common goals.
- It was noted in the past that we have established goals and then they languished and were not executed. During the next vestry meeting we will refine them and determine how we make it executable.
- Vestry members will submit a list of members they wish to contact, to start a dialog as we have not heard from them in a while.

## **NEW ITEMS:**

- **Election of RC President and EP Warden.**  
President – Jackie Lucas  
Warden – Whitney McDaniel
- **Assigning of Committee Liaisons:**  
Administration: Andrea Whyte (E) and Mike Cherwa (RC)  
Christian Formation: Charlie Mills (E) and Kay Ashby (RC)  
Fellowship: Kim Nichter (E) and Jackie Lucas (RC)  
Liturgy: Matthew Wood (RC) and Carolyn Ferguson (E)  
Social Ministry: Joann Mancuso (RC) and Whitney McDaniel (E)

- **Setting a monthly meeting date and time:**

It will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm both via Zoom and in person.

The next meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm

- **Feedback on re-gathering / re-opening for liturgy:**
  - It is noted that people do not like to register and it is hoped in the future we can consider walk-ins but not yet.
  - We are looking at hosting two services at Christmas one on Christmas Eve and the other denomination on Christmas Day, due to the limited numbers allowed at the present.
  - Catholics have a blanket dispensation during the pandemic if they cannot receive communion they are still fulfilling their holy obligation. But should try and attend if they can safely and comfortably.

### **INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS:**

- **Anniversary celebration:**  
Nothing is scheduled for our 43<sup>rd</sup> year.
- **Stewardship Update:**  
October is Stewardship month and all on schedule at present.
- **Vestry Council Training:**  
This is encouraged for all members' especially new Vestry members and a training date will be advised.
- **Virtus Training:**  
All Vestry members should have either Virtus Training (RC) or Safe Church (E) both are acceptable.
- **LARCUM registration:**  
This year it will be virtual and hosted on Zoom on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December (save the date card attached) and registration fee is \$25.00. HA can assist with fees if needed. Everyone is encouraged to attend this year. <https://virginialarcum.org/virginia-larcum-conference-registration/>
- **Annual Parish Retreat:**  
January or February for in person and virtual, Msgr Joe Lehman is expected to attend.
- **What to do with the old playground area:**  
The Dioceses Risk Manager advised that the swing set was not within standards and a new home has been found (Jack Serrine's grandchild). Please think of what we can do with the play area, maybe a picnic table. We are not looking to replace the swing set as an industrial set would be very costly. The Marzitello family is fully aware of the changes and all done with their consent.

### **Committee Liaison Reports:**

Social  
Administration  
Fellowship

### **Final Prayer and Adjournment at noon**

- **Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday 17, 2020 at 6.30am zoom or in person.**

Julia Hatcher  
Secretary  
17<sup>th</sup> November 2020