

Minutes of the Vestry
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Windham Center, CT
23 April 2017

In Attendance – Father John Burton, Gordon Muir, Jim Russell, George Younger, Lynne Ide, Virginia Fulton, Beth Nelson, Margaret Breen, Rebecca Stearns

Called to order – 11:35 am

Budget – G. Muir explained the Income and Expenses report for first quarter. St. Paul's is currently keeping operating expenses under control and staying within budget. Next quarter expenses are expected to exceed budget. See attached report.

Mission and Outreach – V. Fulton reported on the meals programs at the Baptist Church and the Shelter, as well as our continued work with the Quiet Corner Refugee program. The interfaith alliance with other area churches, synagogues, and mosques has coordinated lawn signs and banners showing public support of refugees and immigrants with scriptural reference.

G. Muir made a motion, seconded by G. Younger that the vestry is in support of the vicar placing the interfaith lawn signs on the front of the church.

Unanimous passage of motion.

New refugee family arriving 3 May 2017. House is furnished. St. Paul's will be providing the bedding and furnished three rooms in the house. Over a dozen helpers from St. Paul's and many others donated to help this family. This became an interfaith project bringing many people together from a variety of backgrounds.

Property – J. Russel reported roofing and front of church will be the next to be worked on, including steeple work. Mowing season is starting and volunteers will be coordinated.

Rectory – G. Younger spoke about the inspection on the rectory. Vermiculite found. Possibility of asbestos. The insulation company that made it will pay up to 55% of the expenses to remove it. Quotes for removal will be pursued.

G. Younger and the realtor discussing best way and price to sell the rectory.

Title search is continuing.

Parish Life – B. Nelson reported the 2017 Palestinian dinner grew from 27 in 2016 to 37 attendees. There have been suggestions for more events from Parish members. K.C. Burton has further ideas for use of the garden. *B. Nelson will be announcing a Parish Life meeting to hear suggestions and organize volunteers after Mother's Day.*

If Parish Hall is unlocked for a reason please leave note on the inside of the door stating purpose for which the door is unlocked and time period for it is to be left unlocked.

Vicar – Fr. John noted the new sound system installed from donated funds. Two weddings will be hosted by the church this spring/summer. Arrangements have been made whilst the vicar is away for coverage. The diocese has charged Fr. John with the Discernment Project. The Diocese has let us know that the Parish's Letter of Agreement with Fr. John needs to be redone updated, including a change from Vicar to

Rector. Village Coffee has grown; building community ties. Picture of St. Paul, donated to St. Paul's from the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church will be hung at the back of the nave. Boxes of St. Paul's photos need curating-and we are looking for a volunteer.

V. Fulton moved to approve the parochial report (attendance and budgets for the last year), seconded by J. Russel – Approved with 1 abstention.

ECCT Regional missionaries – Being chosen this month.

State of the Parish – G. Muir discussed possibility of doing a Memorial Day service in the garden to remember service members who are interred in the garden.

Parish Goals Revisited – Those spearheading the four goals will list accomplishments from past year so we may review and update

1. Project our mission outside our four walls in ways that will help build partnerships, grow our footprint in the larger community, make a difference in people's lives, and open new opportunities. / **V. Fulton is working on an up-to-date report on Mission and Outreach done by St. Paul's. Once it is complete, it will be shared with the Parish.**
2. Engage in the work of ECCT to focus on mission, particularly through the work of the newly formed ECCT regional group. / **Looking forward to working with the Regional Missionary.**
3. Allow us to expand the hours of our vicar beyond half-time. / **Vestry decided to remove from goals.**
4. Explore ways to diversify our financial model so that it is not so reliant on pledges. / **Will pursue meeting with outside sources for ideas. Will focus energy on this goal in 2017.**

Next steps – L. Ide summarized and Vestry reviewed financial goals. To-do includes website, need volunteers needed for photo archival and by-laws need to be redone. M. Breen and L. Ide will begin work on by-laws with Fr. John's guidance on canon. Next meeting will be in June, date to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Stearns