

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Feb. 19, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Farmer Hall

Vestry Members in Attendance: The Rev. Shariya Molegoda, Senior Warden Gary Naegel, Junior Warden Gary Cimmino, Treasurer Colleen McHugh-Heflin, Clerk Louise Beecher, Ray Hencir, Matt Valentine, Jane Kraus, Lucinda Embersits, Laura Downs, Deborah Brown, Tom Stott, and Reese Puchalski.

Absent: Mark Tardie, Anastasia King.

Minutes

The January minutes were accepted on a motion by Ray Hencir that was seconded by Gary Naegel.

Rector's Report

The Rev. Shariya Molegoda:

- distributed the vestry handbook to new vestry members,
- reminded the vestry of the upcoming annual “vestry retreat” to be held between 9 a.m. and noon at the church,
- encouraged going to the diocesan “Spring Training” to be held April 27,
- informed the vestry that St. Andrew's had the opportunity to be the sponsoring parish and she the sponsoring priest for Jill Morrison, a theology student who is in her discernment period as she studies for the priesthood,
- asked if vestry members could join her on Ash Wednesday (March 6) at the Madison Train Station to offer “Ashes to Go” to commuters,
- updated vestry members about recent deaths in the St. Andrew's community.

Annual Meeting Review

The Rev. Shariya Molegoda said she had gotten feedback about the annual meeting from some parishioners who felt it had been too informal.

Ray Hencir suggested that it might be better to move the meeting out of the sanctuary into Farmer Hall. He also suggested distributing the report a week in advance as this would reduce the need to go into detail at the meeting and give parishioners the time to formulate questions.

Parochial Report

St. Andrew's annual Parochial report was approved as amended on a motion made by Louise Beecher and seconded by Jane Kraus.

Vision Planning Committee

Senior Warden Gary Naegel recommended that a Vision Planning Committee be created to take a wholistic look at the parish's direction and processes. St. Andrew's situation had stabilized after some difficult years, he said, but he noted that "The budget we presented had a lot of challenges."

Tom Stott volunteered to be on the new group, and Naegel said he would reach out to other parishioners about joining the new group.

Financial Reports - Deep Dive

Treasurer Colleen McHugh-Heflin said that the recent audit of the church's finances had once again identified corrections that should be made to its cash management practices.

The main one concerned tallying the collections from Sunday services. Currently, the money is counted by volunteers on Tuesday. However, best practice calls for the money to be counted immediately after services on Sunday and then brought to the bank's night drop. "We are putting ourselves at risk when the money sits in the church," McHugh-Heflin said.

However, the treasurer reported that a number of measures had been adopted in the past year to tighten oversight of finances. A new bookkeeping system had been put in place, she said, and better records were being kept at the church's pre-school.

The vestry then went over the 2019 budget in detail, but took no formal action.

Memorial Garden Fund

The vestry discussed how money could be raised for the Memorial Garden Fund. The garden, officially named the Resurrection Garden, was created on a small hill behind the church to hold the remains of parishioners. However, under church rules, plots cannot be sold prior to need.

Lucinda Embersits, a long-time member of the committee that oversees the garden, asked that a discussion about funding be held in the spring. “Without money you cannot have a beautiful place to go,” she said.

April Meeting

The vestry agreed to move its April meeting back one week to April 23 to accommodate the Holy Week schedule. Easter is on April 21 this year.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made at 9:25 p.m. by Gary Cimmino and seconded by Gary Naegel.

Minutes submitted by Louise Beecher