

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

November 20, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Farmer Hall

Vestry Members in Attendance: The Rev. Shariya Molegoda, Senior Warden Gary Naegel, Treasurer Colleen McHugh-Heflin, Clerk Louise Beecher, Laura Downes, Ray Hencir, Mark Auletta, Matt Valentine, Nancy Karas, Anastasia King, John Armstrong, Maeve Merkle-Scotland, and Jane Kraus.

Absent: Mark Tardie, Junior Warden Gary Cimmino.

Minutes

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

Rector's Report

The Rev. Shariya Molegoda presented a summary of the annual convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, which was held Oct. 26 in Mystic.

She also reported that Clergy Day, which was held at St. Andrew's on November 6, had been a success with an attendance of 150 – much higher than expected. She thanked Gary Cimmino, Ray Hencir and Debbie Ferrigno for their help in setting up for the event.

Nominating Committee

John Armstrong reported that parishioners Tom Stott, Debbie Ferrigno and Lucinda Embersits had been nominated to fill the vestry slots created by the retirement of three members – himself, Marc Auletta and Nancy Karas. Their terms of the new vestry members will begin Feb. 3, 2019. Reese Puchalski will be the youth representative on the board, replacing Maeve Merkle-Scotland.

Debbie Ferrigno and Heather Meachen were nominated to be delegates to the annual convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, and Cathy Golden and Lucinda Embersits nominated as alternate delegates.

The vestry's officers will remain the same – Gary Naegel as senior warden, Gary Cimmino as junior warden, Collen McHugh as treasurer and Louise Beecher as clerk

The nominating committee was made up of John Armstrong, the Rev. Shariya Molegoda, Mark Tardie, Senior Warden Gary Naegel, Kristin Garnett, Lucinda Embersits and Cathy Golden.

Human Resources

Anastasia King reported that the human resources committee has started work on creating job descriptions for the music and pre-school directors. She also said the committee was ready to write a letter to commitment for the parish administrator, needing only a little more information about benefits.

Security

Ray Hencir reported on the two panic alarms recently purchased. The alarms – which are silent – attached to lanyards that are worn by the ushers.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Colleen McHugh-Heflin reported that although the church was doing slightly better than expected in the expenses at this point (expenses \$5,996 less), the church was still running a deficit of \$51,664.22. Year-to-date expenses were \$323,692.51, and revenue – including distributions from the endowment - was \$272,028.29.

The church operates a very successful pre-school that not only helps defray expenses for such things as utilities, but also produces a profit. McHugh recommended expanding the pre-school as a means of keeping the parish solvent. A committee was formed made of Nancy Karas, John Armstrong and Jane Kraus to analyze the pre-school's success and consider how that success might be increased.

The vestry then voted to grant the church's staff a 2.4 percent pay increase. This will add \$5,000 to the cost of church operations. The motion was made by Laura Downes and seconded by Anastasia King. Mark Auletta abstained from the vote as his wife, Shelby, is the church's Christian education director.

The treasurer's report was accepted on a motion made by John Armstrong that was seconded by Gary Naegel.

Brick for New Library

The vestry voted to spend \$300 to purchase an 8-by-8-inch brick as part of the E.C. Scranton Memorial Library's "Be M.E.- Buy a Brick Campaign" that is helping to fund the construction of the new library.

The motion was made by Colleen McHugh and seconded by Gary Naegel. Laura Downes abstained from voting on the measure as she is interim director of the library.

Buildings and Grounds

Ray Hencir reported on a review of the water problems that have plagued the lower level of the church particularly the choir room. He said that none of the recommendations were expensive, and involved things such as expanding gutters.

There was no progress reported on the effort to solve the on-going septic problems; more investigation is needed.

Facility Rental

Mark Auletta reported that the new facility rental policy was in place. He said that two groups seeking to rent Farmer Hall asked if they could serve alcohol. It was agreed – on a motion by Auletta that was seconded by Jane Kraus - that they could do so if they showed a certificate of insurance.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on a motion by Anastasia King that was seconded by Gary Naegel.

Minutes submitted by Louise Beecher