

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Dec. 18, 2018, 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, Laura Downes, Ray Hencir, Matt Valentine, Anastasia King, John Armstrong, Maeve Merkle-Scotland, and Jane Kraus.

Absent: Mark Auletta, MarkTardie, Nancy Karas.

Minutes

The November minutes were accepted on a motion by Laura Downes that was seconded by Ray Hencir.

Website

Music Director Grant Underwood reported that he was leading a task force to update St. Andrew's website. This was followed by a discussion about the need to improve overall communication with the congregation and increase publicity about the church's activities.

Rector's Report

The Rev. Shariya Molegoda reported on various parishioners who are suffering health problems and asked all assembled to keep them in their prayers. She also discussed the schedule for Advent and Christmas worship.

Annual Meeting

Senior Warden Gary Naegel asked that reports from various committees be handed in two weeks prior to the Feb. 3 annual meeting so that a printed report can be created for distribution to parishioners.

Clerk Louise Beecher was reminded to post in the church the announcement about the meeting and the list of nominated vestry members, officers and delegates that will be voted on at that time.

50+ Wedding Anniversaries

The Rev. Shariya Molegoda said that the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut was planning a service on May 19 to honor couples who have been married more than 50 years. She said that St. Andrew's has 11 such couples and suggested that a special service might be held in Madison, rather than asking the honored couples to travel to Hartford.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Colleen McHugh-Heflin said that the audit was not yet signed off yet and that the church was being asked to address deficiencies in internal control. It was recommended that the church count Sunday donations on Sunday, rather than on Tuesday as is currently being done. McHugh-Heflin said that automating deposits and banking procedures was also being explored.

McHugh said that revenue for the previous month was \$65,618.17 – a figure that includes a \$25,000 supplemental withdrawal from the endowment. However, the church is still operating at a \$33,000 budget deficit.

The treasurer's report was adopted on a motion by Gary Naegel that was seconded by Ray Hencir.

Turning to the proposed 2019 budget, McHugh-Heflin said that revenue was anticipated to be \$625,248, but only about \$212,000 would come from pledges while the bulk of the money would come from the church's successful pre-school.

Since the 2019 payroll is projected to be \$505,000 and expenses \$166,000, the deficit for the next year is anticipated to be roughly \$46,000.

The final version of the budget will be presented and voted upon at the vestry's January meeting.

Housing Resolution

The vestry approved the housing resolution necessary for the Rev. Shariya Molegoda to claim a parsonage allowance on her income taxes on a motion by Gary Naegel seconded by Matt Valentine.

To conform with the law the motion has to be printed in these minutes in its entirety.

‘Whereas the Reverend Niranjani Shariya Molegoda is employed as a minister of the Gospel by St Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Madison, CT, which although providing a residence for her does not provide the full cost of maintaining and furnishing such a residence, the vestry resolves that of the total compensation of \$83,947.93 to be paid to the reverend Molegoda during 2019, that \$3,600 be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRC Code of 1986 as amended, but in any event until further notice the parsonage allowance shall be \$300 a month.’”

The term “housing allowance” is for tax purposes only and does not commit the church to paying \$300 a month.

Human Resources

Anastasia King reported that the Human Resources Committee had completed the job description for the music director.

Messiah

It was reported that the recent performance of “The Messiah” had collected \$416 in loose offerings.

Buildings and Grounds

Gary Cimmino said that three big holes had been dug in the front lawn to examine the soil conditions ahead of making repairs to the church’s troubled septic system. He also reported that town officials said they would be willing to grant a variance that would allow a new system to be built nearer Route 78 than rules currently allow.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. on a motion by Louise Beecher that was seconded by Gary Naegel.

Minutes submitted by Louise Beecher