

**St. Barnabas Episcopal Church • Bainbridge Island, WA**  
**November 15, 2020 Minutes of the Vestry Regular Meeting by Zoom Teleconference**

**Vestry Members Present**

Will Nickum, *Sr. Warden*; Rosalys Peel, *Jr. Warden for the People*; Randy Krause, *Jr. Warden for Buildings and Grounds*; Angie Bickerton; Kirk Eichenberger; Linda Maxson; Steve Schmitz; and David Teves

**Vestry Member Absent**

Carolyn Myers

**Others Present**

The Rev. Karen Haig, *Rector*; Michael Killion, *Treasurer*; Katherine Bolles, *Chancellor*; Rebecca Ditmore, *Clerk*

**Call to Order: 1:04 p.m.**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Opening Prayer and Spiritual Reflection</b>	<i>Rev. Karen Haig</i>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<i>Will Nickum</i>
➤	Motion: Approve the meeting agenda. <b>MSP</b>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes from 10/15/20 Meeting</b>	<i>Will</i>
➤	Motion: Approve the minutes. <b>MSP</b> (Linda Maxson abstained from voting due to her absence from the 10/15/20 meeting.)	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Old Business</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<b>COVID Update</b>	<i>Rev. Karen</i>
	Due to today's (11/15/20) new mandate by the governor, we will be following the guidelines presented by him. The staff will proceed with getting ready for opening once infection numbers are down and new guidelines have been approved. There was a discussion about reminding the congregation about the benefits of walking around the campus.	
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Sacred Ground Update</b>	<i>Dave Teves</i>
	This programming is continuing to move forward. They had their first meeting with all the facilitators and the smaller discussion groups have been identified. There will be a Zoom kick off meeting with facilitators and participants on Sunday, November 22, that will clarify ground rules, guidelines, and best practices. After that meeting, they will be able to officially begin group meetings on dates and times selected by the different participating groups.	

### 4.3 Stewardship Update

*Linda Maxson*

The church is well into its annual pledge campaign. Everyone should have received the card and pledge packet. Pledges are coming in; Ingathering Sunday is November 22. Pledges will be accepted going past November 22, but the November 22 date allows the treasurer and staff to be able to put a budget together. Follow-up calls will be made by the vestry to those who have not responded. The calls are simply to check in to see if someone got a packet; are they thinking about it; can we answer questions or direct them to someone who could answer their question? The goal is to celebrate community and have full participation, because, as Fr. Jim Friedrich reminds us, “We are cocreators of the divine community.” Members will be able to drive into the parking lot between 11:30 a.m.—Noon and hand their promissory card to Rev. Karen, then exit out the lower parking lot. Vestry members will greet and say goodbye to drivers and passengers along the route.

## 5. New Business

### 5.1 Mutual Ministry Agreement

*Rev. Karen*

This agreement is done each year, and includes the three goals we are going to try to accomplish in 2021. The three goals for 2020 were: a gift acceptance policy (done); building inspection (can't be completed), and a strategic plan—which also cannot be completed at this time. A letter will be sent to the bishop explaining how we did and didn't meet the goals for this year, and let him know our three goals for this year. Rev. Karen has asked that the vestry come prepared to discuss the mutual ministry agreement at the next meeting.

- The more we can weave our entire being together and celebrate community, the better we will do.
- Rev. Karen is due a sabbatical in 2022-23, and Eli Lilly has a grant program which can help defray the cost. Rev. Karen is working toward putting together a sabbatical team in order to put an application forward for the Lilly grant.

### 5.2 Housing Allowance

*Rev. Karen*

The vestry needs to approve the housing allowance for Rev. Karen. Clergy are paid their full salary, but for tax purposes, part of their salary is directed towards their housing allowance.

- Motion: Authorizing the 2021 Housing Allowance and ratifying the 2020 Housing Allowance for Rev. Karen. **MSP**

### 5.3 Opening the Church for Personal Prayer

*Rev. Karen*

Rev. Karen discussed the governor's latest mandate and it was decided that because of our demographics, building design, and rising COVID rates, we will not be opening the

church for personal prayer at this time. This decision does not preclude opening the church for personal prayer at a later date. Rev. Karen read a letter from Kathleen Jennings regarding opening the church for prayer. Will Nickum will respond to Kathleen. The vestry unanimously feels that due to the new state mandate, this is not the time to make changes to how personal visits to the church are structured.

#### **6.4 Boy Scouts of America Bankruptcy Consent to Diocese as Agent**

*Rev. Karen*

The purpose of this consent is to allow the Diocese of Olympia to act as our agent in case of a lawsuit due to the Boy Scouts of America's bankruptcy proceeding.

- Motion: Approve the signing and submittal of the form to the diocese. **MSP**

#### **6.5 February 13 Vestry/Treasurer Orientation**

*Rev. Karen*

There will be a diocesan orientation on Saturday, February 13, for vestry members and treasurers. All vestry members and the treasurer are asked to attend.

#### **6.6 Caring Community Network**

*Angie Bickerton*

Pastoral Care has evolved into the Caring Community Network. Some things have had to be phased out due to COVID, but there are still needs to be met. The group is working on things that can be done, cards, phone trees, and identifying who needs to be supported. If someone needs extra support, please let Angie know. This does not replace but supplements Rev. Karen's pastoral care. The vestry thanks Angie for taking on heading up this group of dedicated volunteers.

### **7. Reports**

#### **7.1 Treasurer's Report**

*Mike Killion*

We are in very good financial shape. We have nearly \$300K in cash that is in restricted and nonrestricted funds. We finished the month up \$16K, primarily due to a \$25K gift. Expenses were down \$6K, due to nonuse of the facilities. We are beginning to fall behind on pledge income, primarily due to pledges which were paid earlier in the year. We're still fine, and bottom line YTD we have more than covered our \$22K deficit through the end of October, allowing us to go into 2021 as a financially healthy church. Our preliminary budget for 2021 shows us continuing to be closed for the first six months, expenses as well as would continue to be down, and we will not be able to finalize things until we know our pledge numbers at the end of December. For the moment we have a comfortable financial position. The vestry thanked Mike Killion for his continued efforts as well as his third quarter report to the congregation.

- Motion: Accept the report. **MSP**

#### **7.2 Day School Report**

*Rev. Karen/  
Mike Killion*

The school has \$57K in cash, and expenses are less than the income, which will be the case until in-person classes occur.

**8. Chancellor Update**

The chancellor has no update at this time.

*Kathy Bolles*

**9. Request for Executive Session**

**10. Closing Prayer**

*Kirk Eichenberger*

**11. Adjournment**

*Will*

➤ Motion: to Adjourn 3:38 p.m. **MSP**

**The next meeting is December 13, 2020 at 1 p.m.**

Faithfully submitted,  
Rebecca Ditmore  
St. Barnabas Vestry Clerk