

**St. Barnabas Vestry Zoom Vestry
Meeting Minutes—June 13, 2021**

Present: Angie Bickerton, Dave Teves, Linda Maxson, Brian Andvik, Laura Bainbridge, Judith Hanna, Barbara Bolles, Rev. Karen Haig; Katherine Bolles, Mike Killion

1 Call to Order Dave Teves 1:08 with a quorum

2 Opening Prayer & Spiritual Reflection Rev. Karen

The parable of the mustard seed. What is the significance of the parable of the mustard seed for you? In your time at St. B, what very small thing has become something significant and important? What small thing would you like to see grow into something significant at St Barnabas?

3 Approval of Agenda Dave

Amend the agenda to add the Resolution under New Business.

Approve agenda as amended. **MSP**

4 Approval of Minutes from 5/16/21 Meeting Dave

Approve minutes as presented. **MSP**

5 Old Business

5.1 Bookkeeper Transition Rev. Karen

Hired Suzanne de van der Schueren. Highly qualified and happy to be with St. B. Working with Julie. Mike appreciates her listening, knowledge, and generosity with helpful information.

5.2 Stewardship Rev. Karen

Mo Godman has joined. Still looking for a member for Creation Care. Pro team of stewardship educators hired by bishop. Workshop series starting in early September. Fee cut significantly. All interested are welcome and encouraged to attend.

6 New Business

6.1 Reopening Debrief Rev. Karen (accomplished earlier)

6.2 Church Insurance Rev. Karen

Whole diocese is being asked new questions by insurance providers. Stu is on the Case (Stu Case is an insurance guy). Bill Magnuson and Tom Clark also helping in their areas of expertise.

6.3 Covenant to Root Out Racism Rev. Karen

Lament as Prayers of the People: how did it feel and how often shall we include it? Once per month in Ordinary Time which follows Pentecost? Concerns include accusatory sounding paragraphs. Sacred Ground participants are learning that Color Blindness seems like an open-minded stance, but actually means whiteness is the standard. Instead of all about being guilty, build trust and look for hope. Feels heavy when already dealing with all kinds of heaviness. It's

very present in pop culture now. Want it to be sustainable, not a cultural flash-in-the-pan. How shall the leadership of the church communicate the importance of this to the congregation in a way that they can hear and respond to and that will keep it important over time? Will discuss again at next meeting.

Side note: Land acknowledgement message is being developed by the diocese.

- Suggest to include some of the same message in prayers of the people in the form of asking, rather than being told.
- David summarized: We want to talk about these things in a way that feels authentic to us, doesn't feel forced; inclusion and diversity have grown. Hope we can do this in a way that reinforces this. Feeling uncomfortable is encouraging. It's weighty. Acknowledge that it feels weighty, but it's an indication of our privilege that we can choose when to deal with it.
- Can develop other opportunities for discussion, such as film night.
- Conversations like this about how we engage racism as a congregation might be abstracted and included in newsletters.

6.4 Five Resources for Moving Forward Rev. Karen (tabled because of the long list of other priorities currently)

- 6.5 Opening to Other Renters and Users Rev. Karen
- a. Rotary—plan is developing for their safe return
 - b. Other Renters—AA, Buddhists, other groups who have annual meetings; Amabile wants to rehearse in Parish Hall. Outside users keeping up with protocols is a concern of the staff.
 - c. Reiki—will start up soon. Will follow protocols. Part of St. B.

Q. When are we likely to open up fully? When all people, including children have access to and can be safely vaccinated. As people of faith, we have a greater responsibility to demonstrate our love for one another by ensuring that all people are safe.

6.6 Congregational Development Grant Possibilities Rev. Karen

We've gotten this grant before, for film viewing setup in the parish hall; cameras for streaming services from the church. We can apply again, up to \$30,000. Small grants have been simpler to apply for in the past, but not currently true. Purpose of grant is to grow the congregation. Idea "a" has obvious connections to congregational growth.

- a. St. Barnabas Center for Contemplation—We already have a lot of the "infrastructure." Development and production of a Waterfront Walk to St. Barnabas video and brochure (from the ferry to our labyrinth, through meditation trail, interior and historic church), a welcome kiosk at the labyrinth, and an audio tour of the church campus.

- b. St. Barna-bus: Purchasing a van and paying a driver to pick up people who don't drive. Figuring out how to get people to church. Bus idea does have a few hurdles. Angie working on CCN strategy alternative. Could pursue this another year.

6.7 Consideration of the Meeting Resolution—presented by the chancellor in email. The substance is that vestry meetings may be called in person (at church) or via zoom (or other remote electronic means) at the discretion of the rector, who will inform vestry members no later than the Tuesday prior to the meeting. Approved as presented (Resolution attached). **MSP**

7 Reports

7.1 Treasurer's Report Mike Killion

- Contemplative ministry ("Wisdom Forge") funds and restricted Close funds were used for constructing the labyrinth.
- Endowments increased significantly this year; now just under \$2M.
- PPP Loan was forgiven, and the loan converted to income.
- Pledge income for May exceeded budget, was \$14,000 over budget and included an \$8K increase in pledge by one household.
- Utility expenses currently over budget, but budgeted amount jumps in summer for the rest of the year and will balance out.
- Income is on plan.
- Under plan on expenses because facilities are underutilized currently.
- The Jr. Warden for Buildings & Grounds recommends a \$30K roofing project that will be paid for with unrestricted funds. Roof repair is fairly urgent.
- Day School funds continuing to be strong.

Accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted **MSP**

7.2 Day School Director Hours Rev. Karen (covered in report) Would like to increase directors' hours by 5. Looking at possibility with Mike.

8 Parish Chancellor Update Kathy Bolles

Rev. Karen and Kathy working on Employee Handbook which may make some boiler plate language in Day School contracts redundant. This could simplify contracts in the future. Other work going on as well.

9 Action Items

Brian expressed hope that increased use of Parish Hall will have users resetting room as they found it because volunteers are precious. Rev. Karen reassured him, that, although contracts (e.g., Rotary) specify that they are NOT responsible to reset room, custodial staff can be paid to do so. Therefore volunteers need not be burdened with it.

10 Requests for Executive Session None.

- 11 Closing Prayer Rev. Karen
- 12 Adjournment Dave MSP 2:49pm

Faithfully Submitted,
Barbara Bolles
Vestry Member and Substitute Clerk
6/13/2021

***“We are a community of faith that welcomes and values all people.
We commit to follow Christ, serve others, grow in faith, and
transform the world by sharing God’s love.”***