

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church • Bainbridge Island, WA
June 21, 2020 Minutes of the Vestry Regular Meeting by Zoom Teleconference

Vestry Members Present

Will Nickum, *Sr. Warden*; Rosalys Peel, *Jr. Warden for the People*; Angie Bickerton; Kirk Eichenberger; Linda Maxson; Carolyne Myers; and David Teves

Vestry Members Absent

Randy Krause, *Jr. Warden for Buildings and Grounds*

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> |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Opening Prayer and Spiritual Reflection | | <i>Rev. Karen Haig</i> |
| 2. Approval of Agenda | | <i>Will Nickum</i> |
| | Rosalys Peel would like to add a discussion of the vestry's input into the weekly newsletter. Rev. Karen would like to move New Business items before Reports. These items were changed on the meeting's agenda. | |
| ➤ | Motion: Approve the revised meeting agenda. MSP | |
| 3. Approval of Minutes from 5/18/20 Meeting | | <i>Will</i> |
| ➤ | Motion: Approve the minutes. MSP | |
| 4. New Business | | |
| 4.1. Survey Results and Reopening Options | | <i>Rev. Karen</i> |
| | We have an average attendance of 130 each Sunday, and we had ninety-seven responses. An overview of how people responded is below. Twenty-one percent were from 8 a.m. The remainder were from 10 a.m. | |
| | • <i>Are you attending online service?</i> Seventy-one percent are attending the online services. Twenty-nine percent are not, overwhelmingly because they don't want to worship online. | |
| | • <i>What is missing?</i> Primarily it's being together with people, connection, eucharist, singing, and the choir. Two people asked for a Rite 1 service. | |
| | • <i>What can we do to better help you feel connected?</i> The congregation was primarily positive in its feeling that there is not much to improve. | |
| | • <i>Would you be willing to be part of a sanitizing team?</i> Forty percent said yes, sixty percent said no. | |
| | • <i>If church were to open now would you attend?</i> Twenty-six percent would come back in the sanctuary right now, thirty-eight percent would worship outside the parish hall on the | |

large patio, and thirty-three percent would not come at all. We realize that we should have invited to choose every worship possibility they were comfortable with.

- *What circumstances would need to be met to come back?* A large number said they would not come back until there was a vaccine. Most said social distancing, masks, etc.
- *What have we forgotten?* There is no going back, people were generally complimentary and wanting to take precautions.

The results of the survey will be sent to the congregation this week as well as an update to what our building situation will allow us to currently do. There will be mention of the kinds of services we are hoping to offer in the future.

We are going to make our decisions based on science, the Governor's mandates and the diocesan mandates. A critical issue for St Barnabas is the lack of HVAC system in the sanctuary and the subsequent lack of air exchange. Air should be exchanged (according to recent diocesan webinar) 10x/hour. There is zero air flow exchange in the sanctuary; we heat that building through radiant heat. The parish hall air exchange will be tested to see if can be an option for indoor services. The COVID Task Force will be looking into this issue as well as the possibility of using chairs rather than pews if we are able to worship in the sanctuary. Do we need to look at something as a short term solution for the sanctuary? We can only worship outside until possibly October. Six churches in the diocese are removing their pews, which means more people can come in at safer distances. Pew removal can be discussed. Rev. Karen would like to develop a COVID Task Force to develop policies and protocols for reopening and moving forward with worship on site. Kirk, Dave, Mike, and Katherine volunteered to help with this. A plan will need to be developed for this, and we can look to both the bishop and other churches to review their plans. Rev. Karen will get information and documentation to all who are interested in participating in this process.

4.2. Racism Conversation

Rev. Karen, Will

What can we do to actively speak to this issue as a congregation? Rev. Karen would like to find out how we can be helpful and she would like to see how we can do something positive. This would be a long-term consideration that would allow us to present some options to the congregation. There is a good list of diocesan resources, and we have our own day school which through scholarship could provide possibilities. The vestry will continue to gather resources and content, and commit to St. Barnabas's showing and participating in avenues for change.

Rev. Karen would like to send something with the church's weekly Constant Contact that shows how the vestry is engaged in the wider world through action and reading. Dave will take point on coordinating this.

4.3 Proposal for Peaceful Vigils

Rev. Karen

Rev. Karen asks if we are interested in doing a gathering for this. Questions to be considered include: Would this be open to others outside St. Barnabas? What kind of numbers are we looking at for attendance? The vestry had a positive reaction and

recognizes that a clear plan would be necessary to allow this go forward, including just sending the notice of service to current parishioners. Rev. Karen would like to group a vigil such as this with a notice of other services which could also be held outside. There was concern about holding a vigil at church when we're not holding any outdoor services at church. Two vestry members were not in support of a vigil.

4.4 Second Vestry Meeting During the Month—Disconnection *Discussion*

This idea behind this came out of a conversation between Rev. Karen and Will about feeling disconnected from the larger vestry by meeting only once a month. This would be an invitation to join in if you are available, beginning and ending at a certain time. It was decided that the first Thursday of the month would be the meeting day. Rev. Karen will send out a new Zoom meeting link for this.

5. Reports

5.1 Treasurer's Report and Amended Budget *Michael Killion*

The operating performance is stellar. We are \$30k ahead in income relative to plan. Expenses are down and more people are paying their pledge in full vs. in the past. Things look very good. From the balance sheet, the HomeStreet bank account has the PPP loan and we've been using it for payroll and utilities as we said we would. This also means we'll have forgiveness of the loan. The endowment is up in May, but down compared to last year. In order to better track things, the budget has been updated to reflect changes made to expense categorizations, but this does not change the budget bottom line.

- Motion: Accept the report. **MSP**
- Motion: Approve the amended budget. **MSP**

5.2 Bishop Meeting with Clergy and Wardens *Will, Rosalys Peel*

There was an informative and meaningful webinar from Bishop Rickel to clergy and wardens. It spoke to the importance of supporting rectors. The bishop is open to contacting him directly. Among the things he addressed were capacity issues, that we must have our protocol in writing, we can decide if outside groups will use the church, there will be some kind of diocesan convention but it is unclear exactly how that will unfold, and that the diocese has applied for a PPP loan as well to help support mission churches.

5.3 Stewardship Vision *Linda Maxon*

Linda asks if this can be continued at the next vestry meeting.

5.4 Connection *Rosalys Peel*

Rosalys presented the idea that the connection letter for the weekly newsletter be optionally rotated amongst vestry members (and could also be from congregation members).

5.4 Day School/BISD *Rev. Karen*

It appears BISD will be opening in the fall. The day school is waiting for the diocese to make a decision about what the future looks like. Rev. Karen has a meeting with the school director about what the next steps are. The building has been sanitized, but there is concern expressed regarding the germ factor that small children bring to the building. The COVID Task Force will be addressing the day school opening as well as church and rental opening.

5.6 Rector's Report

Rev. Karen

A written report was submitted and read by vestry members. No comments were submitted.

6. Chancellor's Report

Katherine Bolles

The chancellor has no report for this meeting.

7. Closing Prayer

TBD

8. Adjournment

Will

➤ Motion: to Adjourn MSP 3:02 p.m. **MSP**

9. The next meeting is July 19, 2020 at 1 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,
Rebecca Ditmore
St. Barnabas Vestry Clerk