

**St. Barnabas Episcopal Church Bainbridge Island, WA**  
**July 16, 2023 Minutes of the Vestry Regular Meeting Remotely, by Zoom**

**Vestry Members Present in person or remotely**— Barbara Bolles, *Rector's Warden*; Steve Schmitz, *People's Warden*; Brian Andvik, *Property Warden*; Tom Beierle; Michael Ditmore, Judith Hanna; Mary Anne Smith, and The Rev. Karen Haig

**Vestry Member Absent**—Laura Bainbridge, Claire Hicks

**Others Present**—Katherine Bolles, *Chancellor*; Rebecca Ditmore, *Clerk*

**Others Absent**—Kirk Eichenberger, *Treasurer*

<i>Item</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
<b>Call to Order: 12:32 p.m.</b>		<i>Barbara Bolles</i>
<b>1. Opening Prayer</b>		<i>Steve</i>
<b>2. Ministry Spotlight—Labyrinth</b>	<p>The labyrinth needs some care, and the landscaping needs to be finished. There are minimal grant funds available, so the vestry will need to approve any expenditures from restricted funds. (Rev. Karen will work with Holly to review the planting budget.) Holly would like the dirt area by the retaining wall to be planted with taller plants to make things more interesting there. Holly can put together a team to do any planting, and this month's work team will also do some weeding. There can also be fall planting done to add plants in that area. Holly asked that the vestry find ways to lift the labyrinth in conversation so that more people will make use of it. Rev. Karen will also bring up the labyrinth and the additional possibility of a candlelight walk with the adult formation committee which will be meeting in the fall.</p>	<i>Holly Gray</i>
<b>3. Spiritual Reflection</b>		<i>Rev. Karen Haig</i>
<b>4. Approval of Agenda</b>	<p>➤ Motion: Approve the agenda as modified. <b>MSP</b>.</p>	<i>Barbara</i>
<b>5. Approval of Minutes from June 18, 2023 Meeting</b>	<p>➤ Motion: Approve the minutes as amended. <b>MSP</b>.</p>	<i>Barbara</i>
<b>6. Treasurer's Report</b>	<p>In the absence of the Treasurer, the report was received and reviewed. If we need to collect additional funds to meet the budget, donations would be requested.</p>	<i>Rev. Karen</i>

It was clarified that the kitchen is an outreach ministry, and that it's not losing money as had been reported at the all parish meeting held a few weeks ago. Rules do not allow it to be profitable.

In his report to the congregation at the end of June, it is requested that the treasurer address the profitability of the commercial kitchen, also reminding parishioners that it is an outreach ministry.

➤ Motion: Accept the report as presented. **MSP**.

## **7. Old Business**

### **7.1 Review of Tracking List**

*Rev. Karen*

Items were both added and removed as they have been completed.

### **7.2 Personnel Update—Musician Search**

*Rev. Karen*

Applicants were sent a questionnaire, with an additional request for a recording of two hymns, and so far three have responded. There are two candidates in particular who are very qualified. Applications close July 16. The committee anticipates hiring mid-October for an Advent 1 start. There are five weeks that are currently not covered by a church musician but could be covered by the new music director should he or she be able to begin earlier.

### **7.3 Strategic Plan Update**

*Barbara/Rev. Karen*

Ninety-eight percent of the interviews have been done. Next is a deep dive into the information, to comb through it to find forward thinking and creative ways to move into the future. The Strategic Planning Team was discerned and chosen based on their experience and leadership. Their hope is to come up with a three year plan leading to a thriving St. Barnabas.

### **7.4 Endowment Name Change**

*Tom Beierle*

Tom mentioned the Emergency Endowment, which has in it \$213K. The purpose of those funds' historical use is undetermined, and Kirk was asked to learn what he could from the diocese. He has not had time to get to the bottom yet, but Tom suggests that the funds be repurposed into a Legacy Fund, to be used for the perpetual care of the facility and organization.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1 Day School Liaison**

*Rev. Karen*

The Day School is an outreach arm of St. Barnabas and needs some support, including a vestry member who can be available. Demographics on the island have changed; students enrolled in BPS (BISD?) have declined dramatically over the past few years; population growth in general is down. Enrollment at our Day School is down and staff retention has changed. We offer less time per week for students than other schools on the island, although most of the day schools on the island are struggling as well. Barbara will meet with the director and see how the vestry can be more engaged with the school, since the

vestry is the school's board. Mary Anne Smith will also meet with a group of interested parishioners.

## **8.2 Annual Campaign**

*Barbara/Rev. Karen*

Kathy Anderson has agreed to lead our annual campaign for the coming year and has looked at some of the historical ways fundraising has been done in the parish. It is hoped that this will help the congregation to understand what giving means for the future, by weaving together the old and the new, hopefully resulting in the changes we need to see.

## **8.3 Interium**

*Steve/Rev. Karen*

Rev. Karen forwarded an email from the last rector about the status of the interium expansion to Steve and Brian. Steve ~~discussed~~ reported that the niches in the interium are getting close to be sold out. There are four niches areas available for development. The costs for interment of ashes is \$2K, and \$1,600 to be added to the wall. Brian will take on researching the next phase and will move forward to get more information.

*Note:* the wall price was discussed in the meeting as \$1,800. It is in fact, \$1,600.

## **8.4 Vestry Meeting Time**

*Rev. Karen*

Rev. Karen would like the vestry to meet in person and encouraged members to meet in person for future meetings unless out of town or ill. It was suggested that the third Thursday could work as an alternate meeting date, but Kathy Bolles will contact Claire and Laura to see what days and times work for them. Kathy will engage to see what times might work for the rest of the group, with the time Sunday included as an option.

## **8.5 Status of Interfaith Council**

*Steve*

Three people asked to represent St. Barnabas, and Rev. Karen asked them to decide between themselves how they'd like to be involved. Steve will follow up with them.

# **9 Reports**

## **9.1 Day School Report**

*Rev. Karen*

The day school was covered in the liaison discussion in point 8.1.

## **10. Parish Chancellor Update**

*Kathy Bolles*

The chancellor has no additional report at this time.

## **11. Action Items**

*All*

*Rev. Karen*

Forward an email to *Steve* about the Interfaith Council and Steve will follow up with interested parties.

Proceed with hiring the Family Ministry Coordinator.

Bring up labyrinth with Adult Formation Committee and work with Holly about a planting budget.

Ask Tim Shelly to forward kitchen contract to Kathy Bolles for review.

*Rev. Karen, Mary Anne, and Barbara*

Meet with Karen Beierle to discuss supporting the Day School.

*Rev. Karen and Barbara*

Meet with the parishioner who suggested we brew beer.

*Kirk*

Discuss the profitability of the parish kitchen in your six month review to the parish, with the reminder that it is an outreach ministry of St. Barnabas. There appears to be some confusion about profitability amongst parishioners. Contact diocese re: any information or restrictions on the Emergency Endowment.

*Brian*

Research next phase of the interium. Find out the fee for new plaque metal frames.

*Kathy*

Send out a questionnaire asking whether Sunday or Thursday is better for vestry meetings, and what time on either day would be preferable.

*Kirk*

Research the emergency endowment: origin, purpose, use?

*All*

How to move Social Justice forward. Send ideas to Rev. Karen.

Please consider speaking in the service about why you pledge and why you serve (your own story), and let Rev. Karen know of your willingness.

## **12. Closing Prayer**

*Steve*

## **13. Adjournment**

*Barbara*

➤ Motion: Adjourn at 2:29 p.m. **MSP**

Faithfully submitted,

*Rebecca Dittmore*

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church Clerk