

**St. Stephen's Vestry Meeting**  
**April 11, 2023**

**Present:** Fr Howard Hess, Jim Anderson (treasurer), Leah Bailey, Adam Cavender, Tom Clary, Betsy Ellis (secretary), Cleon Hartman, Ashley Hillis, Rachel Kirk, Courtney Manrod, Cyril Meredith III, Beth Reed, Jim Rousey, Barbara Steele

**Absent:** Fr Ashton Sims, Emily Doane

**Guest:** Canon Michelle Bolt, Chancellor George Arrants

**Call to Order:** Fr. Howard Hess

Fr. Hess (Vicar) called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Every member of the Vestry introduced themselves to Canon Bolt and Mr. Arrants

**Opening Devotional:** Cyril Meredith, III

Cyril lead the Vestry in "A Liturgy to Begin a Purposeful Gathering" from **Every Moment Holy, Volume 1**

**Approval of the Agenda:** Fr. Howard Hess

Fr. Hess requested the following changes to the agenda:

- Approval of the minutes added under IV
- Employee's return to work – move up to VII.

The revised agenda was approved unanimously. (Steele/Bailey)

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** Fr. Howard Hess

The minutes of the March 14, 2023, Vestry meeting were approved unanimously with noted corrections. (Manrod/Bailey)

**EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION:** Senior Warden's report and Employees' Return to Work Discussion Item

**LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

**Vicar's Report:** Fr. Howard Hess

Fr. Hess provided a description of the age demographics of attendees at the Holy Week services. Although the total number of attendees at all services combined was similar to last year, the parish held its own in a year of great change.

**Junior Warden's Report:** Leah Bailey

Leah distributed a handout from Sandi Robertson extending an invitation to the vestry and staff to attend Derby Party at her house on May 6, 2023. An RSVP was requested.

Fr. Norman would like three representatives to accompany him to a workshop entitled "How to navigate divisive politics" sponsored by Ministerial Association next Wednesday from 6-8 pm at the United Way building. Courtney will attend. Leah will identify two other parishioners to go.

Fr. Bailey would like to have an event on April 30 for him to have a discussion with the parish about his last 6 months. There will be a luncheon after the 10 am service followed by the

discussion when the young people go to Christian formation. She proposes that the Vestry host the luncheon. There will be grilled chicken with sides and dessert provided by the Vestry members.

### **Items for Action**

**Approval of March 2023 financial statement:** Tom Clary

The finances are still in good shape with revenue running ahead of expenses. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the statement as submitted. It was approved unanimously.

**Annual adoption of DIOET policies regarding sexual misconduct:** Beth Reed

Three policies were submitted for review a few weeks ago. The Diocese requires that a document confirming adoption of the policy be signed by the Vestry and Secretary and posted in the church. Beth made motion to adopt all 3 which Jim Rousey seconded. It was approved unanimously.

**Approval of the 2022 Parochial Report:** Courtney Manrod

It was approved unanimously. (Bailey/Clary)

**Seminarian Support:** Tom Clary

The Diocese recommends at least \$100/month in support for each seminarian raised up out of the parish. The Finance Committee recommends \$3,000/semester which would be paid to college. The budget can support this amount. Adam is not sure about his housing costs yet. Approved unanimously. (Steele/Bailey)

### **Reports**

**Parish Life:** Leah Bailey

There will be a coffee and cake reception for Fr Hess after the 10 am service on Sunday, April 16, 2023. Parish Life has sponsored 12 events since February, including those already planned in the future.

### **Old Business**

**Quiet Room Proposal/Nursery Coordinator Status:** Rachel Kirk

The Quiet Room is still being considered. An ad is out for a nurse worker.

**New Business:** Rev. Howard Hess

None

Courtney closed the meeting with prayer at 9:16 pm.

Respectively submitted,  
Elizabeth Ellis  
Secretary

*Next Vestry Meeting is May 9, 2023*