

Vestry Minutes April 2022

Present:

Father Tommy Townsend; Jenny Gregory; Steve Roberts; Dave Alexander; Jamie Clayton; Judee Brooks; Brett Helm

Judee Brooks offered the opening prayer

John Hartland provided a snapshot review of the March budget report. Noted a four thousand dollar drop in pledged revenue and indicated he is examining what may have caused this. The payroll numbers are off and may need an adjustment based on current numbers, but the insurance numbers are correct, as they reflect back pension and health insurance catch up. The \$7100 designated funds deposit is a bookkeeping step to move money deposited prior to March to our Raymond James account.

A review of the first quarter report was also provided. Father Tommy noted our revenues and expenses were within \$200 of the budget, so even with the pledge income dip, we are still on track. John Hartland indicated the financials report format is still under review with our contractor to allow the vestry to target questions and provide further clarity. Father Tommy noted the cleaner layout and ease of readability and reminded us this posts to the website every month.

Judee Brooks asked if the quarterly report could post as well and this was agreed to.

Father Tommy provided an update on the columbarium expansion and a \$9000 increase in costs for the backplates. Request to use Raymond James fund to cover the expense was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Senior Warden Jenny Gregory then opened discussion on the discernment process.

Father Tommy indicated the feedback from the consultant was the spiritual health of Holy Nativity was such that a sermon and plea for input would suffice, but at the expense of an opportunity for the entire community to show faithful giving.

The time period was discussed with Tommy suggesting a full church year. Steve Roberts pointed out this vestry's term end in December, so perhaps wrapping up the process and turning the results to the next vestry would be better. This was approved unanimously.

All agreed we will begin on Pentecost to allow the bishop to be part of the kickoff. Tommy reiterated the process required us to listen to the body of the church, not to lead, but facilitate conversations. Jenny Gregory stressed the purpose of the process is not to discuss how to apply resources/monies, but to create a clearer understanding of what Holy Nativity's mission in the community is. Dave Alexander emphasized the need to be liturgically correct in our approach, and he, Brett Helm, and Jenny Gregory reemphasized the role of the vestry is to listen, not lead discussions.

Father Tommy noted the excitement of some members and citing the need to develop a deeper pool for lay leadership as well as further opportunities for lay leaders to lead. All agreed that while the vestry will take the point in creating spaces for the conversation, the role will be to facilitate the process for the congregation.

Jamie Clayton suggested creating small groups for each vestry member to take charge of and setting clear ground rules for how they support the conversations. Dave Alexander concurred, suggesting we use

the framework used in most focus groups as a starting point. Brett Helm asked how often these groups should meet and who is included.

Father Tommy laid out a choice between pledging membership and “all” in the active community. Dave Alexander indicated he favored a group larger than just pledge membership, but still a defined group of stakeholders in the community. Steve Roberts indicated he prefers a whole group meeting to kick off and allowing the active membership to “buy-in” after that. Father Tommy agreed and indicated the meeting will occur after church on Pentecost on 6/5/22, with the membership also learning which vestry member will be facilitating their discussion groups.

Dave Alexander emphasized the need for the vestry to create a robust ongoing communications channel to share insights and ideas across groups. Brett Helm suggested the vestry flocknotes group could suffice in this. Jenny Gregory highlighted this communication should reflect a sense of the body of the groups. As Father Tommy will not be directly involved in the process, Brett Helm pointed out Tommy could be involved by monitoring the vestry’s communications and pointing out trends and concerns that we may not see in our groups.

Jenny Gregory indicated she would create a draft framework to begin the process for the vestry’s review. Father Tommy, Dave Alexander, and Jamie Clayton all voiced support for regular parish wide updates on the discernment process posted to our social media sites, website and through flocknotes.

Jenny Gregory reviewed the March minutes and asked for approval with minor grammatical changes.
Unanimously approved

Father Tommy closed with prayer