

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, South Haven, Michigan

**Vestry Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2020**

Present: Fr. Rob Cornelison, Senior Warden Walt Sicard, Treasurer Helga Costello, Norm Bailey, Brad Sylvester, Ron Darling, Mark Lewis, Todd Brugh and Scribe Kathy Sicard

Absent: None

The meeting opened with prayer by Fr. Rob at 7:08 pm.

Minutes to the September 14, 2020 meeting had been electronically distributed. Ron made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Helga and the motion carried.

Helga presented the Financial Statement for September 30, 2020 and the Budget Report for September, 2020. Norm made a motion to accept the Financial Reports, seconded by Todd and the motion carried.

Discussion of Covid-19 protocol:

The vestry discussed returning to the two teller offering count system that was used pre-Covid-19 per the by-laws. It was decided by consensus vestry members will act as tellers, working in pairs with social distancing to count the contributions in the parish hall following Sunday services going forward.

Rather than return to pre-Covid-19 coffee hours, the vestry by consensus agreed to open the parish hall after Sunday services for socially distanced, masked socializing without refreshments going forward with plans to revisit this arrangement in a few months.

Fr. Rob checked with Peter Matthews, now head of the Standing Committee to see if singing in services is permitted yet. He was told we have permission to sing through masks. As this is difficult to do, the vestry by consensus decided to offer that option for the Sanctus and Gloria (service music) as well as a processional and recessional hymn with limited verses only beginning Sunday, October 18. Fr. Rob and Ron will meet to choose several weeks of songs. Ron will run the keyboard for the singing and will also supply soft background music as the Eucharist is prepared and administered. Lynne Maxwell left a flash drive with a good selection of songs he can use. Fr. Rob needs to know the song selection and lyrics to create power point slides and Kathy Sicard needs to know for the bulletin each week.

The preparation and administration of the Eucharist will remain the same for now.

The Kenyan Liturgy was used in the service Sunday, October 4, and was well received.

Secretarial and Worship Leader Changes:

Intercessors for the Sunday services will find the Family of the Week listed on the back page of the day's bulletin so they can include them in the Prayers of the People. They are not included in the service power point any more to keep the power point generic.

Replacing our worship leader was discussed. Ron asked Star & Charlie Fritsche to think about someone who could help. Kathy checked with a friend who trained worship leaders at Kuiper College in Grand Rapids for a recommendation. Fr. Rob plans to check with St. Basil Catholic Church to see if they have someone available. The vestry is looking for someone who would genuinely worship with us and would work at building relationships at HTAC. The worship leader would not need to participate in communion but should be willing to have a eucharistic blessing. Having a new worship leader would offer new opportunities and excitement to our parish.

News from the Pews

Relating to visitors was discussed. The diaper drive for the Reed family was a big blessing to them. Fr. Rob will check with them to see if there are more needs we can fill. Norm was instrumental in getting our new worshipers involved in Servant Ministry so we will see new faces as intercessors and readers. Kathy has begun emailing the scripture readings to the reader of the week so they have an opportunity to practice.

Fr. Rob said Mark Engle stepped down as head of the Standing Committee of our diocese because he is a candidate for Bishop. Peter Matthews took his place. The Standing Committee expressed interest in how our parish is growing during this time of Covid-19.

Fr. Rob noted that with our visitors, if everyone came on a given Sunday, we would have 45-50 people which would max out our sanctuary space as we socially distance. We could go to two services if necessary, but would need to be prepared for to offer good parish communication if that occurred. Fr. Rob can guide us through growth changes. He has materials to share with the vestry and the vestry is interested in learning more.

For good communication HTAC may need to hire a church secretary for a few hours a week. It is essential to have a central hub and an official structure for communication with growth.

Fr. Rob implored the vestry to pray about who God wants us to be and what God wants us to do as a church. Praying for discernment in those areas will also help us as we search for a new rector.

Kathy asked for permission to use church space for a Journey group sometime in the new year. Space to socially distance would be necessary so her home will no longer accommodate.

Calendar Work:

Fr. Rob announced that Fr. Brandon Grimm became engaged to Sarah Osantowski recently and they plan to wed in perhaps January or February with Fr. Rob officiating. It was proposed the church give them a bridal shower and a date will be sought for that.

Reports from Committees/ Ministries:

Norm reported that Carol Bailey has Lynne Maxwell's notes in a booklet for seasonal Altar Guild protocol.

Kathy reported she had sent the Prayer Request list to Jonathan Fitch at Fr. Rob's request as he is one who prays.

For Mission/Outreach Kathy reported no housing had yet been found for Greg Madsen. Ron offered to follow through on the possibility of a trailer for rent.

Fr. Rob thanked Norm and Dennis DeVinney for finding and delivering a queen sized bed to Fr. Samuel MaQuatch and suggested HTAC send \$200 to Betty Udongo in Uganda because she is helping Fr. Samuel's wife Rebecca in her attempts to move to the U.S. and could use the support. Ron made a motion to do so, seconded by Brad and the motion carried. Helga will write a check to Fr. Rob marked as a donation to Betty Udongo which he will forward to her through the app "Wave". "Wave" is the most inexpensive way to wire funds.

Walt spoke on the Buildings and Grounds committee's need to finish the rector's office and get the sanctuary speakers and wires off the floor. He suggested Ron and his assistant, Miguel, do the work and bill HTAC for the work. Norm suggested installing a timer to shut off the parking lot lights at 10 pm each night to save money.

Ron will get prices on t-shirts and sweatshirts with white printing on them and offer a sign up sheet to parishioners. Parishioners can choose what color, type and size shirt they like.

Laura Jager will again offer a Women's Bible Study on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11 at the church with masks and social distancing beginning October 15.

Helga asked to update the Church Directory using the church printer and paper. Each directory costs \$10 to make. Walt made a motion to let Helga do that and submit her expenses to the church, seconded by Brad and the motion carried.

Fr. Rob said Bishop Grant will be in our region sometime in November and will confirm, reaffirm and receive new members. Fr. Rob will find out the date and see who may be interested. He is willing to help prepare new members. Wendy and Jonathon Cornelison and Sarah Osantowski have expressed interest and there may be others.

The meeting of the vestry was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Sicard

