

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
July 21, 2024, 12:45PM
Church Pavilion

Present: Rector's Warden: Patrick Reilly, Vestry Warden: Barbara Koenig, Vestry Members: Michele McKenzie, Bruce Roach, Gary Jacobson, Bill Robinson, Riley Huston, Michiel Bourdrez, Diane McKay, Jack Knight, Clergy: Mike Angell, Mandy Taylor-Montoya, Officers: Evelyn Hanneman, Judy Fifield, Guest: Sherry Kircher, Jim Moffitt (Assistant Treasurer)

Absent: Jennifer Hanson, Chris Alvarez

Opening Prayer & Reflection

Mike said the opening prayer - the Collect for an Election from the Book of Common Prayer.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:48 PM.

Items for Vestry Approval and Discussion

Approval of June 16, 2024 minutes of the regular Vestry meeting and July 2, 2024 minutes of the Special Vestry Meeting. Several corrections and clarification of wording were made to the June meeting minutes. Michiel made a motion to accept the June 16th minutes with noted corrections/clarifications and to accept the July 2nd minutes as written. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of new Vestry member. Sherry Kircher is standing for election to the Vestry to fill the vacancy left with the resignation of Dale Lange. Sherry introduced herself, gave some biographical information about herself, and her involvement with the church. She joined St. Michael's in 2018 and is currently serving on the Stewardship Committee. Sherry was asked to leave the meeting while the Vestry voted. Barbara made a motion to elect Sherry Kircher to fill the vacant Vestry position left by Dale Lange. The motion was seconded by Michele. Several members of the Vestry spoke of how they know Sherry, how they have worked with Sherry on various committees, and gave examples of the many attributes she possesses. Barbara asked for a vote on the motion that is on the table. The vote to approve Sherry as a new Vestry member of St. Michael and All Angels Church was approved unanimously with no abstentions. Sherry rejoined the meeting and was welcomed to the Vestry.

Signers for accounts held at New Mexico Bank and Trust. Jim Moffitt was introduced as a member of the Finance Committee and Assistant Treasurer. He provided a history of the previous financial work and leadership positions he has held at St. Michaels.

The Vestry was asked to approve the following statement as written on the meeting agenda: "The Vestry of St. Michael and All Angels names the following people as signers for our accounts held at New Mexico Bank and Trust: Evelyn Hanneman, Barbara Koenig, James Moffitt, and Patrick Reilly". Diane made a motion to accept the statement as written. The motion was seconded by Gary and approved unanimously with no abstentions.

To update the current membership of the Finance Committee, a formal vote on the resignation of Denise Clauss is needed. A motion was made by Jack to accept the resignation of Denise Clauss

from the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Michiel and was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

Finances

Evelyn provided a written report in the read-ahead materials. Financial statements were distributed. Evelyn stated that half-way through the year the church is doing well financially.

With the new accounting program, the finance reports are in a slightly new format. Evelyn reviewed each page of the June financial report, provided explanations where necessary and answered questions that were raised. She noted there is still some work to be done on the Day School report. This is being worked out by Cheri and Monica with assistance from a representative from the Early Childhood Education and Care Department. Also, what looks like a deficit for the school is due to the way it is now being posted from cash to accrual accounting system. The school is not operating in a deficit. The school's finances should be reconciled for the July report.

Evelyn reported that Cheri has put in a lot of work to get us where we are with the new system. Having up-to-date reports is expected by September. Jim and Cheri will be working to meet this timeline.

Evelyn made note of several other items:

- Our fair share to the Diocese is now caught up.
- JP's pension went with him when he was hired by the Diocese, but the church is still being billed. Work is being done to rectify this situation and to obtain reimbursement.
- Regarding the Schwab account, the funds from a matured T-bill is sitting in a cash account rather than being reinvested. There have been attempts to communicate with Schwab to get the signers changed on the account, but we have not received a response. JP's assistance is needed with this situation, hopefully for the last time.
- Funding for resurfacing of the parking lots came from the capital fund. The company who did the work only charged us for their labor costs.

Jim spoke about plans for 2025. A number of accounts for the 2025 budget will be changed to help clarify where things stand.

Vestry Fiduciary Duties

At every Vestry meeting there will be a written finance report as well as financial statements. Barbara asked the Vestry to refer to the document titled "Fiduciary Duties of Vestry Members" that was provided in the read-ahead materials. In reviewing the document, Barbara highlighted the importance of reviewing financial statements prior to our meetings, and to ask questions when information is not clear. If anyone needs training or a refresher on how to read financial statements, that can be arranged.

There is a need for a review of the current financial decision matrix. With the rise in costs over the past few years, the current matrix may be out-of-date.

Thank You to Mandy

This is Mandy's last meeting with the Vestry. Members of the Vestry spoke of the many gifts Mandy has brought to this church which include:

- Her joyful presence and vibrancy

- Her welcoming spirit and friendship
- Her theological Knowledge
- The pastoral care provided to everyone
- The Newcomers Class – Hybrid and post Covid
- The Trunk or Treat events she coordinated
- Support for the school and the young children enrolled at the school
- The continuity she provided through Covid and with all the changes the church has experienced
- How grateful we are for her leadership, guidance, and direction in helping us thrive
- Answering biblical and liturgical questions

Mandy spoke about how this beautiful space has been a part of her spiritual life from the time she came to the church with her parents, to her and John's wedding, her children's religious upbringing and being hired in the formation position before starting seminary. She spoke of how it has been a gift and honor to walk with this community – walking together through Covid, through seminary, and her ordination at the cathedral. She spoke of St. Michael's being a place of hope that strives to live out the Gospel. She said it is hard to say goodbye, but St. Michael's will always be in her heart and in her prayers. When asked what she is most proud of that she would like to see continued, Mandy responded with:

- Continue to cultivate a community of families with young children who provide support to each other,
- Continue to cultivate a team of lay leaders to provide pastoral care, and
- Dance, clap, and hold hands more often.

Mandy then left the meeting.

A suggestion was made to provide Mandy with a \$2000.00 gift that she could decide to use as additional compensation or that could be transferred to St. James for her sabbatical fund. A motion was made by Michiel to provide a \$2000.00 monetary gift to Mandy. The motion was seconded by Jack and was unanimously approved with no abstentions.

Rector's Report

Mike provided his written report to the Vestry in the read ahead materials.

Values Discussion - Plans are being made to schedule and advertise the next conversations with the congregation about our three proposed values and next steps toward setting goals for the future of our congregation. The conversations will take place in August and September.

Personnel - Mike spoke about the significant departures of clergy and staff. He spoke about the really tough challenges he is experiencing with hiring clergy and staff at large and the amount of time he has been spending on this work.

Mike also spoke of the practice he has previously used to convene a committee of lay ministry leaders who have related experience and knowledge to assist Mike with interviewing and to act as advisors as we discern a potential call with a candidate. He plans on utilizing this practice at St. Michael's.

He provided brief updates on each of the four positions listed in his written report.

Mike spent more time informing the Vestry of a potential candidate for the position supporting formation ministries. This person comes with a strong recommendation and endorsement from the Bishop.

Clergy and Ministry Support - Mike spoke of his desire to extend invitations to a small number of “honorary assistants” from among trusted colleagues to come to Albuquerque for about a month to help with worship, preaching, and pastoral care in the short term. He assured the Vestry that the expenses would be within the current clergy budget. Mike spoke of plans he is working on to bring guest preachers Miguel Escobar and Kelly Latimore to St. Michael’s in October and November.

Regarding pastoral care and liturgical support, Lee Lowery will be able to work as a part-time interim priest for pastoral care and some liturgical support. Susan Allison Hatch is on the fall rotation. Jan Bales will assist with reading of the gospel.

Mike ended his report by stating that the Thursday Eucharist will be re-instated.

Upcoming Dates

Sunday, July 28th – Mandy’s last Sunday Services with a potluck celebration to follow

Friday, August 2nd - Vestry Party at Barbara’s home

Sunday, August 4th – Blessing of the backpacks

Monday, August 5th – Open House at All Angels Episcopal Day School

Adjourn and Closing Prayer

A motion was made by Barbara to adjourn the meeting. Michelle seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:42PM with Mike saying the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

Judy Fifield, Clerk