

**St. George's Episcopal Church
November 16, 2016**

Attendance:

Vestry	Others
P – The Very Rev. Shearon Williams (Rector) P – Anna Alt-White (Senior Warden) P – Elliot Branch (Treasurer) P – Denise Cormaney (Junior Warden) P – Mary Martha Churchman (Register) P – Don George P – Hal Bean P – Bradford Hardin P – Emily Davis P – Eric Goldman P - Linda Sibert P - Darren Hekhuis P – Katie Wells	P – The Rev. John Shelito (Associate Rector) P – Elena Keydel

Opening Prayer

The Very Rev. Shearon Williams called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM and Denise Cormaney led the Vestry in opening devotions consisting of scripture passages relevant to the recent election followed by the Prayer of St. Francis.

Approval of the Minute

The Vestry unanimously voted to approve the minutes for the October 2016 meeting and the November electronic resolution approving funding for purchase of a new Advent wreath as part of the renovation project.

Review and Approval of the Treasurer's Report,

Treasurer Elliot Branch transmitted monthly financial reports from the bookkeeper Bob Stone and budget reports from Bob Panfil. Elliot reported that we are still in good shape for 2016 with income ahead of projects and expenses down. We are also now experiencing some investment gains. Initial planning has begun for the 2017 budget. Our cash position is good. We are still weeks from needing to draw on the bridge loan, resulting in less interest to be paid, and more to

be earned on funds already received. The total loan needed will be no more than \$250 thousand, in contrast to the \$700 thousand originally authorized by the Vestry. The audit committee, consisting of Susan Kuhn and Jill Nusbaum, began the 2015 audit this week.

Erik suggested that we communicate the good news about the bridge loan to the congregation and continue to encourage members to time fulfillment of their remaining pledges late in 2016 or early in 2017 to further minimize the need for borrowing.

The Vestry voted unanimously to approve the Treasurer's report, moved by Bradford and seconded by Linda.

San Jose Check In Members of the San Jose congregation are experiencing concerns about the Presidential election results. Shearon and Anna will visit at the end of their service on Sunday to communicate St. George's continuing support and demonstrate that we stand with them. Several Hispanic congregations locally and nationally have experienced hate messages, though not San Jose. It is apparent to the public that the Episcopal Church is sympathetic to the immigrant community.

On behalf of the social justice committee, Linda presented a letter she drafted to send to Our Savior church, which experienced hate-based vandalism. The Rector and Wardens will sign and send.

All three Virginia bishops will attend a special service to be held at the Santa Maria mission in the near future. Kathy Panfil is on the Diocesan Committee responsible for planning the event.

Mary Martha noted that several other St. Georgians also serve on Diocesan Committees (Lynn Crawford, Co Chair of the Committee on Race and Reconciliation; Tomas Saucedo, committee on Congregational Missions) and suggested that this is a good story to tell the congregation, to reinforce the importance of the Diocese to us, and us to the Diocese.

Vestry Check-In

Given the stress surrounding the renovation compounding raw nerves related to the Presidential election, the Vestry took 45 minutes to reflect individually and collectively and bring our fears into the light.

Renovation Committee Update

Elena reported that the contractors are still on target to complete the renovations in time for Christmas Eve services in the nave. After the radiant heating coils are installed, a topping slab will be poured and cured. Then the porcelain tile floor can be laid, labyrinth first. Landscaping is due to be installed soon. The final walk through is supposed to happen December 21, allowing just barely enough time for Worship function chairs to get ready for the first services. Sound system testing won't happen until Friday afternoon, December 23.

The service of rededication will be held January 22, with the presence of Bishop Gulick. Invitations will be emailed to members and to related clergy and other former members, etc. Missie Burman is organizing a reception for the event.

No Decisions were required regarding the renovation project this month.

New Revenue Update on Childcare Program

Elena Keydel reported that she and Tracey had been looking at a program for two year olds but had learned that you can't house a program for children under 2 ½ on the second floor. Exploration continues of several other options: Arlington County HeadStart and Kinhaven pre-school programs may be looking for temporary space. Tracey is also exploring a Catechesis based pre-school program, but more training would be required.

Electronic Resolutions

Shearon led a short discussion about the protocols and need for electronic ballots, about which several Vestry members had raised concerns. The procedure was adopted in 2011 to accommodate the need for rapid decisions on time sensitive but non-controversial matters requiring Vestry approval without requiring extra meetings. Ordinarily the motions are few and far between but the renovation project with its constrained contingency budget has resulted in a flurry of recent votes to approve expenditure of Altar and Special Funds for renovation related activities which were not necessarily foreseen. The Vestry was reassured that the financial policy works in ordinary times, with appropriate thresholds for expenditure of budgeted funds included in the annual operating budget. Expenditure of Altar and Special Funds beyond those programmed in the operating budget requires Vestry approval, with no minimum threshold. Members requested that when possible advance notice be given up possible upcoming electronic resolutions and that their use be minimized. Because the rules require a unanimous consensus to conduct the ballot, and two negative votes derail the resolution, there is the perception of pressure to acquiesce and members can feel like they are being asked to rubber stamp a leadership decision. A meeting in person offers more opportunity to ask questions and resolve minor concerns prior to voting.

Two Resolutions

The Vestry unanimously adopted a resolution to approve \$1500 to pay for creation of a new festival frontal, chasuble and stoles to be taken from Altar and Special Funds – Art and Furnishings account.

The Vestry unanimously adopted a resolution to approve the hiring of a harpist for the Christmas Eve Service to accompany Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols, and the payment of \$500 using Altar and Special Funds – Music account, contributed by a generous parishioner.

Text of the background and resolutions follows.

RESOLUTION FOR THE VESTRY OF SAINT GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL, ARLINGTON,

REGARDING THE CREATION OF NEW FRONTAL, CHASUBLE, AND STOLES

Be it resolved that the Vestry approve funding a new festival frontal, chasuble, and stoles for the new altar.

Background: Elegance and beauty of altar frontals and clergy vestments contribute to the sanctity of the worship experience for Saint Georgians. Because the new altar is a foot shorter in length than the previous one and the "white" or "festival" frontal is too worn to be made over, a new coordinated set is required. These frontal, chasuble, and stoles will be used on feast days and festival seasons (e.g., Christmas, Easter), baptisms, funerals and weddings. Kathryn Wells will design and sew these furnishings for less than \$1500, a savings of half from purchasing from liturgical vestment distributors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vestry of Saint George's Episcopal Church, Arlington, approves up to \$1500 to pay for the creation of new festival frontal, chasuble, and stoles to be taken from Altar and Special Funds-Art and Furnishings.

Harpist for Christmas Eve Service

Be it resolved that the Vestry approve the hiring of a harpist for the Christmas Eve service. The choir will be singing Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, which requires a harpist.

Be it also resolved that the Vestry approve the payment of the harpist's fees of \$500 using Music Altar and Special Funds. A generous parishioner has already made a donation to the Music fund to defray this cost

Leadership Reports

The Rector's report focused on upcoming events at which Vestry attendance is expected.

Recruitment for new Vestry members for 2017 will begin soon. Katie will run for a full term. Only two other slots are open for election this year since two members were elected last year after being appointed to fill incomplete terms.

The Senior Warden reminded us that the December meeting will be a week early (December 14). While we are displaced during the renovation it is important to appreciate and thank coffee hour hosts, worship leaders, lay leaders and staff.

Shearon is completing her term of four years as Dean of Region 3.

Close with Prayer

The Vestry meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM following brief prayers and the Lord's Prayer..

Minutes submitted by Mary Martha Churchman, Register