

# ST. GABRIEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

### December 4, 2019

Steve Fairbrother - Senior Warden  
Mark Hessler - Junior Warden  
Eric Miller - Treasurer  
Carol Heist - Clerk of the Vestry

Stephen Fairbrother, Carly Greenwald, Suzanne Siebert - 2020  
Mark Hessler, Jo Rivera, Carol Heist - 2021  
Ben Heckman, Eric Miller, Bill Strickland - 2022

Present: VanBuren, Siebert, Rivera, Hessler, C. Heist, B. Strickland, Greenwald, Fairbrother, Heckman  
Absent: Miller Non-voting Staff: R. McClellan, S. Heist Guest: Danielle Troncelliti

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Andrew VanBuren, Priest-in-Charge. The meeting opened with a Collect and reading and discussion of the Gospel. God-Finds and Notebook Items were shared.

**Minutes** - the minutes of the November meeting were approved after a motion by Carol Heist, seconded by Steve Fairbrother.

**Russ McClellan** - Has been pursuing ordination to the priesthood and is required to come before vestry, tell his story, and then if Vestry agrees to support his continuing they will write a letter and send to the Bishop. Andrew handed out a list of the requirements of the Vestry's role. Russ had come before the Vestry a few years before and received approval but Bishop Kevin, elected since that time, has no letter in Russ' file so Russ needs to be re-approved. Russ shared his story with Vestry and then stepped out of the room to allow Vestry members to discuss among themselves. After discussion, Steve Fairbrother moved and Jo Rivera seconded to support Russ in his journey, and the motion was approved. Andrew then circulated a paper for signatures, and he will type a letter to send to the Bishop along with the signatures.

**New Vestry Members** - As the Diocesan Canons concerning vestries allows members to serve two consecutive terms, Suzanne Siebert agreed to continue to serve, as did Carly Greenwald. Danielle will serve a new term (after having stepped down a year ago to allow for transition) and has agreed to then be elected Sr. Warden.) Carol has been serving the rest of Danielle's old term (expires 2021) and will continue to do so, but will also step aside if someone else new would like to come in for the year. Several people were mentioned as being asked to serve for the remaining year, and will be asked.

**Budget Review & Approval** - The revised 2020 Budget Draft was submitted by treasurer Eric Miller via e-mail, Andrew noted the projected deficit is now just over \$5,000. Administrator Sally Heist will voluntarily reduce her office hours to 3 days a week, which will thereby cease her eligibility to participate in the lay retirement plan and life and disability insurance, a savings to the parish of about \$4,500/year. Bill Strickland

then moved and Carol Heist seconded to approve the budget, which was unanimously approved.

**January meeting date** - Regular meeting date falls on the 1<sup>st</sup>, so moved to January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**New Prayer Books** - Sally Heist reported the "Executive Committee" approved ordering 52 pew edition Books of Common Prayer, at 40% discount which expired after Dec. 2...price \$13.77 each, to replace some of the worn copies in the Church and Chapel. Sponsor forms will be in bulletins inviting people to cover cost...\$15 each.

**Ministries Update** - Laundry Love - Danielle said more churches in the Pottstown area are beginning to help with the ministry. Quarters are always needed.

Youth - Ben said it's plugging along. They've been collaborating with younger classes and that helped a lot. Will be trying to hold a parents meeting during Sunday School time to ask for some help. Will be deciding what program to use...have been using pieces of J2A but need something different. Andrew said Midge Pendergrast from Christ Church Reading is looking to do some joint Youth gatherings among the Episcopal Churches in the area.

Children - Carly agreed the collaboration with youth has been working well. Children's "Pageant" 5:00 Christmas Eve as in past years.

Cookie exchange - Danielle invited people to bring cookies to swap before decorating the church on the 22nd.

**Priest-in-Charge Report** - Andrew submitted his written report and reviewed it, including that he's been in discussion with Lifetouch about a new photo directory, and he'll be participating in a Blue Christmas Service on Dec. 12. Also, a Boy Scout contacted us about his Eagle Scout project, wanting to build a Little Library at St. Gabriels late spring/early summer. Andrew invited interested vestry to attend sessions of "College for Congregational Development" in Rochester in 2020, for which Andrew has taught some sessions and hopes to continue to do. (Fri/Sat. 4 weekends a year.)

Rectory - Andrew said he and Becca would like to have an invisible fence installed for their dog and install a new sink in the kitchen. He wondered if they could split the estimated \$1,000 cost of the fence with the church. (No further discussion/motion, other than general agreement that a new sink should be paid for by the church.)

**Building & Properties Update** - Mark said the new thermostat was installed in the church (by Gehringer). Flashing was repaired on church roof. The pew doors in the Chapel will be worked on because they're binding/sticking. Light on wall next to kitchen near back entrance will be replaced. A spring cleanup day will be scheduled.

**Treasurer's Report** - Eric submitted his report in writing. River tract property...Shane Reustle still interested in purchasing. Offered \$5,000. Appraisal was \$20,000. Eric

would like to list with a realtor to see if other interest, but the property is land-locked and soggy. Suggestion was made to have Eric ask Alan Rieger (realtor) his opinion.

**Other business:** None

Eucharist followed, and after a motion by Carol Heist , seconded by Carly Greenwald, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Attested by:

Sally Heist, Recording Secretary

Carol Heist, Clerk of the Vestry