

Vestry Minutes
April 4, 2021

PRESENT; Senior Warden Zadinga Ogada, Junior Warden Kristen Keating, Danielle Allen, Adoma Baffoe, Wadai Dennis, Arturo Rodriguez, Monty Peterson, Lauren Kingsland, Ruth Anna Skowronski, Ed Armstrong ,Wendy Quijada, Gary McLaughlin (Treasurer).

Meeting opened at 2:03pm following prayer by Padre Javier.

CONSENT AGENDA: Kristen asked if we were still charging the Seventh Day Adventists and Sandy Ridge Academy the pre-COVID rates rental fees. Zadinga explained that the Sandy Ridge Academy's fees were tied to the MCPS' school schedule. Up to this point we are still charging the discounted rate. Javier suggested that we go back to the regular rate. Lauren reminded the vestry that the SDA's contract had expired on March 16, 2021 so we can go back to the old rate when a new contract is signed. Zadinga said that she mentioned the increase to Eileen (SRA Director). After discussion, it was agreed that we will re-negotiate the contracts at the pre-COVID rate. Zadinga also suggested a six-month agreement and to re-examine everything again after six months. Kristen agreed. After the discussion Kristen moved to accept the consent agenda with the clarifications, Lauren seconded and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: Gary thought there may be a little confusion about the Treasurer's report especially for the new vestry members. He explained that his report is the one page summary and the financial statement. For new members, he suggested that they look through the statement and send him questions. Lauren asked what the \$70K for the contents of the chapel represents. The amount is based on Berenice's recommendation as an experienced insurance adjuster. Gary did not want anything undervalued. Danielle asked if the financial statement has been cleaned up to include all changes from the audit. The audit is still pending but Gary will meet with the auditor on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. In comparison, the January and February statements are similar. Gary is a bit worried about utilities and facilities issues. The line items are not clear. Under facilities, HVAC, Mike's Snow and Lawn Care line items are \$3,800 each. ARK and Cleaning are \$3,189 but they are all grouped as one-line item of \$11K which makes him anxious. He will find out how to separate them. He is working with the auditors, Lin and QuickBooks so hopefully he will resolve the issue. We are negotiating rental income with the tenants and he is interested in finding out the results of the negotiations.

Call List: Wadai forgot to send it so she will do so in a day or two. She apologized for that and asked that she should be notified of any wrong numbers so the call list can be updated. Zadinga reminded everyone to call the church members to whom they are assigned and check on them. Make sure to report anything of concern to Zadinga or Javier.

NEW BUSINESS:

Re-opening: Discussion began on the possibilities of re-opening since the weather is getting warmer and people are getting vaccinated. We do not want to differentiate between those who have and have not be vaccinated. We are not inclined to have services outside since it takes effort to haul equipment out and back. We have worked hard to set up equipment which is hard

wired into the electricity in the sanctuary. Danielle and Wadai are concerned about street noises

which will be distracting. We will also need volunteers for any services held outside the sanctuary. Ruth Anna suggested that we could have a service inside, and outside services be held without the technology. Padre would like to work with the re-opening committee to begin the process of re-opening. Lauren thought it was very nice to have people in the sanctuary at Easter for the baptism. Adoma and Lauren suggested we continue with the zoom services and have limited people in the church. Adoma said we could use the registration system again for that purpose. Arturo stated that the re-opening committee has a plan laid out for the re-opening.

Lauren also suggested that with the good cameras we have, we can have people in the different rooms as well. Danielle said that if we have people in the other rooms, we have TVs that have been donated but we will need to find a way to broadcast zoom to those TVs and finance the installation. Kristen said that the use of the other rooms will increase the cost of cleaning. Being vaccinated means risk of infection is lower so we should still control the space we use. Dannielle added that going back to our original plans to have the 8am service with no singing should be considered. Padre agreed.

Zadinga echoed the thoughts and with Padre's installation coming up, we need to move towards opening up the sanctuary. Padre asked that Adoma call a meeting on Monday April 19, 2021 so that the re-opening committee can start planning, for an example, marking the church. Kristen suggested that our first service back should be on May 2, 2021 so that we can practice for two weeks before the installation. We have the old documents for those who will be present to sign, cleaning supplies and thermometers. Adoma suggested that the communication committee put out information about the re-opening. Wadai asked about ushering and communion. Padre said it should remain the same. Arturo said the re-opening committee will work out the details.

Outreach: Kristen said that Eugene was supposed to head the committee but since he has been unavailable, should the committee continue without him? She suggested that we begin promoting the committee and asking people to join. Doing things like organizing service projects and evangelism will be good. The first step should be a general call for people who are interested to join the committee on a specified date. Ruth Anna said that Eugene had contacted some people so it will be a good group with which to start. Kristen asked Ruth Anna to forward the list to her. Ed asked if the committee has a mission statement. Kristen said there is an old mission statement but not a current one. Ed thought it may be a good place to start especially if some of the people involved in creating the statement still want to be on the committee. Kristen would like to start the core group then step back.

OPEN MIC:

Elevator: It is not working, the doors will not open and the lights are out. The good news is that it will be fixed for free. It will be done in time for the inspection.

Equipment: Danielle asked Padre if Jesse communicated how much installing the TVs cost. Padre said it is about \$703. Kristen moved to fund the installation of the TVs and Lauren seconded. It passed unanimously.

Danielle said that the communication committee is non-existent yet. We have two Facebook pages; one is a business page and the other is a “friend” page. She would like to know if they need to mirror each other since she is the only one managing the pages. Padre said yes. She also asked what we should do to represent ourselves. Lauren would like to see messages from the youth group and Sunday school. We can ask Angie and Trevor to share information on both pages. Danielle hopes that once the parish council is established, we can have more of the thought-provoking subjects posted from the different groups such as the Christian formation for adults or EfM. Kristen asked Danielle to ask Peg to add information about EfM for the next class on Facebook so that people in the community may join. Ruth Anna also suggested that the outreach committee should reach out to the community on Facebook in order to grow our Spanish community. We should also add information on bible study in Spanish to encourage folks in the community.

Padre is waiting for more responses to his question about what we have learned during the COVID pandemic period so far. Wadai asked why nobody in the congregation attends the vestry meetings. Javier said that because the minutes are uploaded to our website, those who are interested read them instead of attending the meetings. Kristen asked that the secretary of the vestry send her the packet when it is ready so that she can truncate them and forward it to Danielle to be uploaded to our website.

ADJOURNMENT: Closing prayer was provided by Wendy. Danielle moved for the meeting to be adjourned and Lauren seconded the motion it passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 3:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro
Secretary of the Vestry