

**St. Anne's Parish
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

Clergy and Vestry Members Present

Rev. Dr. Manoj Zacharia
Kathryn Burke
Emily Langston
Katie Creely
Howard Buskirk
Lauren Dana-Evans
Al Collins
Bill Silva
Tom May
David Huggins
Townsend McNitt
Kevin Hays
Jason Houser
Phyllis Everette

Vestry Members Absent

Glenn Mortoro
Susan Thaxton

Non Vestry Members Present

Caleb Briggs, Minutes

Fr. Manoj gave the Opening Prayer 7pm

Houser started by remarking at how good an Easter it was.

May noted that the BCP allows for the reception of the pre-consecrated host for Good Friday which dates back to the 6th century.

Huggins noted how hard the chorus worked for the Holy Week and Easter services.

Fr. Manoj expressed a wish to encourage leadership and participation in ushering, especially during Holy Week.

Huggins noticed that everyone behaved themselves on Easter Sunday.

Houser noted that Morotro is absent and that the Treasurer's Report was sent out already and that the giving amounts were unusually on par with the projection at the beginning of the year despite usually being below.

Hays asked if the budget was slightly skewed to a January spend.

Secretary/Registrar Report

Houser recognized Hays.

Hays directed the Vestry to a handout and reminded the Vestry that he will be asking one member to give a liaison report every month.

Liaison Update

Hays recognizes Langston

Langston said she had submitted two prior reports. She noted that the facilities report usually comes through the junior warden but Hays clarified that that has been corrected going forward.

Langston then reported on the Archives Committee: They are interested in but wary of digital archives. She noted that we've had the problem of updates, but also noted that physical archives can be lost due to natural disasters. They asked about info for buying supplies and that it was easily sorted out. Langston then went on to talk about the Cemetery committee: they are busy all the time. She went on Saturday to work with SaveOurTrees and said that it was a good turnout. The people from SOT were very helpful as well.

May noted that going down Rowe Boulevard, there are ties on trees that will be cleaned up due to neglect and there's still an enormous amount to be done. He hoped that the city would come through with building a new bike path at the end of the St. John's College campus and up past the cemetery.

Houser asked about updates with the bike path.

May said he wrote to the chair of the planning committee at St. John's. The last thing he heard was from Brian Calahan on Saturday, who spoke as if he believed the college had no objections. Both he and Langston expressed incredulity over SJC accepting it and that he'd believe it when he can ride his bike on it.

Langston noted that there has been a lot of discussion on it but is not sure what decision has been reached. Additionally, Nature Sacred will apply for a grant to plant native plants.

May noted that Nature Sacred was very impressed with what had been accomplished through COVID by the people who maintained the cemetery.

Langston said that there is going to be another cleanup on Earth Day. She hasn't gotten a report yet for every group that is within her purview despite contacting them.

May clarified if Hays wanted a report from a Vestry Member every month.

Hays said he would like members to e-mail every month and report when something important is happening but there may be months without reports.

Houser said that as the reports come into EC and are given to Hays, the smaller things would be taken care of by committees and larger things can be deliberated on by the Vestry.

Hays wanted members to talk to their committees about their succession plans to ensure they have new people coming in.

Silva asked if all committees have three year terms like the Grants Committee to which Hays replied “no.”

Fr. Manoj added that he hoped that the people who discern being on a committee shouldn't have to consider it a life sentence.

Vestry Retreat Update

Houser said that he and Fr. Manoj were looking for a facilitator for the retreat. He invited two or three items from everyone focusing on what is the path forward for St. Anne's to flourish. He noted that the question for focus is if we were to leave St. Anne's and leave Annapolis, what sort of parish would you want to go to? If we were pulled out of our town, what would we want out of a new place? He said that the third piece is *Learning From London*, reading it and being prepared to have some discussions on it.

Everett asked if it'll be done in the Parish House.

Houser said that it'll be at Park Place and there will be a sign up for meals. Friday night, all day Saturday, and probably some component on Sunday, the weekend of May 19.

May asked for a reminder of what book was being read.

Dana-Evans held up her copy of *Learning from London*.

PASA/Educational Growth Assessment Update

Houser talked about the desire to put together a committee to create a fund for PASA to grow its footprint in the community.

Dana-Evans noted that there is overwhelming demand for schooling and we are currently turning people away.

Other Business

Houser opened the floor for other discussion.

Fr. Manoj pointed out April 23rd that there will be info provided on Naomi's village from the coordinator of it and there is a baptism or two next Sunday.

Creely asked for clarification on Holy Week reflections in the Rector's Report.

Fr. Manoj said that this was sort of the first glimpse of a Holy Week he got at St. Anne's and said that he's very grateful for all the work the staff does and Kirsten, Caleb, Fr. Dion, Mtr.

Meredith, Mtr. Olivia, Kathy, and Heather Strang and it gave him a taste of what the possibilities are for future liturgies. He is grateful that it was an opportunity for prayerful reflection.

Hays and Huggins noted, again, how hard the choir worked.

Fr. Manoj noted how hard everyone worked and that there is more opportunity for engagement from people. He also pointed out that 935 people in total from Easter Vigil to the 5:30 service and 42 out of 51 people at that service were brand new. He worried, however, if the people were engaging enough with the newcomers and added that ushering is more than handing out bulletins.

Huggins noted that he had a conversation with a French couple in French on Friday.

Manoj continued that it's our role to be there for people and that there's a lot of pain and grief in the world and mental health is not great.

Buskirk noted that it would be great if there was more leadership involved in greeting and welcoming people. The vibe he got was that there were people in attendance who had to do things on Sunday but still wanted to go to church on Easter.

Everette noted that we should collect data on newcomers and put signs up like other churches.

Fr. Manoj agreed and said that he thinks that there isn't enough communication about things like signs.

Everett and Houser agreed.

Dana-Evans agreed and said that it has been awhile since the signs have been up and there have been people who were unaware of the service time changes.

Houser agreed that signs should be up and it should be on us as members of the church to connect with and invite people.

Houser invited other notes.

May asked about the Truth and Reconciliation Committee as noted in the Rector's report. He expressed his hope that the parish would enter the Trail of Souls and of the older parishes in the area, we are the only ones not involved in the program that was started in 2015.

Langston asked for expansion on what the Trail of Souls is.

May said that Trail of Souls was intended for truth and reconciliation as started by Bishop Sutton. This tied in with Paul's account of 2 Corinthians 5 as will be talked about in the Bible Challenge on the coming Sunday.

Burke noted that trailofsouls.org is a great website to learn more on.

May also said he thinks that the Ceremony of Apology at St. John the Divine in New York City has a very inspiring message by Bishop Dietsche and can be found on YouTube and could be something to consider in the vestry retreat.

Houser and Manoj noted that truth and reconciliation ministry will begin ending their listening session and compile a report by November 1st, 2024.

Houser invited May to do a report and May agreed.

Burke notes that St. Anne's had invited the Diocese to do a report and they invited the church to join but that was in May 2020 which was too chaotic due to COVID.

Buskirk asked about reparations and their status.

Fr. Manoj responded that no determination had been made.

Houser said that they discussed the fact that the Diocese was still maturing in its reconciliation efforts and it was talked about as to whether the church would send money to the diocesan fund or do it locally and it was decided to do so locally.

Buskirk asked what is being looked at for the future.

Fr. Manoj said that acknowledging complicity through plaques and working on education should come first, before money.

Houser talked about the issues surrounding the lectern and the Waddell Monument conversation should be ongoing before we move on.

Fr. Manoj noted that Bishop Sutton's work was done after 10 to 12 years of conversation. So slow and steady is the way. The Rector could put up a plaque but that does not allow for conversation. Acknowledging the past is important, but we should look forward to the future and address issues like human trafficking.

Burke asked to talk about the banner that the reconciliation committee would like to hang for May Day which says "Conversation builds community" and invites people to check out the racial reconciliation projects done by local churches.

Houser said that something so straightforward sounded great and should, frankly, be dealt with by a committee.

May said that despite everything that happened with COVID, a core of the truth and reconciliation committee has worked throughout and it has been illuminating and enlightening.

Houser added that having these sorts of discussions are very important.

Everett asked if, when the Diocese agreed to contribute to the reparation fund, it was still open to the church.

Fr. Manoj said it is still open and that the diocese contributed 3% of its endowment to the fund and two other parishes have contributed. The rest of the churches have set up their own funds.

McKnitt noted that 37 women will be going to the women's retreat in the coming weekend.

Approval of March Minutes

Houser motioned to approve the minutes. Langston seconded. They were approved unanimously.

Closing Prayer was offered by Hays from the Diocese of Kansas's Vestry resource webpage.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.