

THE PARISH OF THE ADVENT

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY

Type: Regular Meeting

Date: March 22, 2021

Via Remote Communication

A regular meeting of the Vestry of the Parish of the Advent was held on the twenty-second day of March, *anno Domini nostri Iesu Christi 2021*, via remote communication through Zoom, the Rector presiding.

The following fourteen members of the Vestry were present, eleven of whom were present at the meeting's commencement, thus constituting a quorum:

The Rev'd Douglas E. Anderson (Rector)
Mr. C. Thomas Brown (Rector's Warden)
Mr. Paul J. Roberts (People's Warden)
Mr. Adam C. Rutledge (Treasurer)
Mr. Frederick A. Ou (Clerk)
Miss Lynda J. Blair
Mr. John M. Boyd
Mr. Thatcher L. Gearhart
Mr. Dustin E. Henderson
Dr. David E. Lapin
Dr. Philip W. Le Quesne
Mrs. Carolyn P. McDermott
Dr. Brent D. Nelson
Mr. Francesco M. Piscitelli

The Rector, after ensuring that all those participating could hear each other and be heard by one another at the same time, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and offered an opening prayer.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Rector presented the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Vestry, held on February 18, 2021. After review, upon motion, duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Vestry's February 18, 2021 meeting be approved as submitted.

II. REPORT OF THE TREASURER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Treasurer reported that there was nothing noteworthy about the Parish's financial numbers so far this year. He did comment, however, that the Parish's recently installed electronic bill-pay system continued to demonstrate its usefulness in ensuring proper oversight of the Parish's finances, and that a bursar's credit card now being used allowed for more prompt payments to be made to vendors.

III. REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Mr. Piscitelli, Chairman of the Stewardship Committee, reported that the Parish's 2021 pledge campaign continued to make progress. To date, approximately \$523,500 had been pledged to the Parish from 185 pledges for 2021, which represents about 94.5% of the total pledge amount from 2020. Fifty-five pledges increased, which more than offset the thirty-five pledges that decreased—Mr. Piscitelli mentioned that such decreases had not been unexpected given the challenging circumstances caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the Parish also received twenty new or renewed pledges representing approximately \$31,500 in total, and an inquiry would be made as to whether these pledges have any connection to the Parish's offering of web-based recordings of Masses, Choral Evensongs, meditations, and other content during the pandemic. Overall, the Parish's average pledge had increased by about five percent to \$2,830 compared to 2020.

IV. REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Mrs. McDermott, Co-Chairperson of the Property Committee, reported that repair of the Parish House steps began today, March 22. The Committee was also in the process of responding to a request by the Administration Committee to create an updated list of capital projects for which it may be necessary or advisable for the Parish to initiate in the foreseeable future.

V. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Lapin, Chairman of the Administration Committee, circulated among the Vestry a revised version of the Committee's August 2, 2019 strategic plan. He noted that the area for which the least progress had been made was

community, mission, and education, and that our ability to implement changes in this area had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee would look into improvements in this area in particular that may be appropriate and feasible in the current circumstances, such as the possibility of adding video cameras to record Masses.

Dr. Lapin also recommended a renewed look into the possible elevation of an organ blower currently housed in a closet in the columbarium and thus susceptible to flooding. He noted that it was currently a good time to take on such a renovation given that the organ is not being utilized as much as normal due to the ongoing pandemic. Dr. Lapin would confirm that the amount of the previous estimate the Parish received for this project is still valid, and suggested that the Vestry make a decision on this issue soon. The Rector added that he would speak to Mr. Mark F. Dwyer, Organist and Choirmaster, the next day to obtain his recommendation thereon, as well as to determine whether any other work on the organ might need to occur and thus sensibly be done concurrently. It was also mentioned that the settlement the Parish received from the estate of Mrs. Nancy E. Macmillan, a late member of the Parish, might help defray these costs since these funds were earmarked for music.

VI. RECTOR'S REMARKS

6.1 Upcoming Events. The Rector announced that given current guidance on in-person worship from the Rt. Rev'd Alan M. Gates, Sixteenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, Holy Week observations would not be able to go on as usual this year. Instead, a morning Mass would be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, the Good Friday office would be prayed via Zoom at noon that day, and there would not be an Easter Vigil Mass. On Easter Day, the regular Mass schedule would be held, and a prerecorded video of the Mass would be made available for those unable to attend in person as well.

Regarding other events, the Rector said that the Boston Harbor Deanery would be putting together a Zoom event with Ms. Ruby N. Sales, likely to take place during late Eastertide this year. Ms. Sales is connected to the Parish because she was saved as a young girl by the Episcopal martyr Mr. Jonathan Myrick Daniels, who underwent a profound conversion experience and renewal of grace while attending Mass on Easter Day at the Parish in 1962, which then subsequently served as a catalyst for his later enrollment at Episcopal Theological Seminary, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and civil-rights advocacy.

In addition, the Rector reported that the Parish clergy had discussed possible Christian-education programming for the upcoming fall, as well as for the next Anglo-Catholic Conference. It was envisioned that the next Conference will likely be held around the Feast of the Ascension in 2022, with the tentative theme of “Identity, Race, and the Anglican Communion.” Particular effort will be put into finding appropriate speakers that can discuss this topic from a theological approach.

6.2 Approval of the Parochial Report. A copy of the Parish's proposed 2020 Report of Episcopal Congregations and Missions According to Canons I.6, I.7, and I.17 (i.e., the Parochial Report) was circulated among the Vestry for its approval. After review, upon motion, duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED, that the Parish's 2020 Parochial Report be approved as presented.

6.3 COVID-tide Reopening Update. The Rector provided an update on various Parish personnel matters. He also noted that barring new guidance from Bishop Gates to the contrary, the recommended attendance limit for in-person Masses will increase to seventy-five individuals as of April 25, 2021.

VII. REPORT FROM THE WARDENS

The Rector's Warden reported that given the guidelines set forth in Bishop Gates' pastoral letter dated March 4, 2021, recommending that the capacity for in-person gatherings not increase until after April 19, 2021, it would be unfeasible for the Parish to hold its 2021 Annual Meeting on its currently scheduled date of April 11. Therefore, he proposed that the 2021 Annual Meeting be moved to a date between April 25 and May 20. In addition, given the continued uncertainty arising from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Rector's Warden recommended that, regardless of the date chosen for the 2021 Annual Meeting, the previous protocols put forth to ensure a safe and expeditious Annual Meeting still be implemented.

After discussion, upon motion, duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED, that the resolution of the Vestry adopted on January 7, 2021, calling an Annual Meeting of the Parish for April 11, 2021, is hereby vacated.

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the Parish's By-laws, the Vestry calls an Annual Meeting of the Parish of the Advent, to be held in the Church on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 16, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk shall post a Warrant in conformity with the requirements of Article IV, Section 2 of the Parish's By-laws.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to consider, upon motion, duly made and seconded, the Vestry voted to adjourn the meeting, whereupon the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

I attest that the above is a true record of the Vestry meeting held on Monday, March 22, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick A. Ou,
Clerk