

Church of the Nativity  
Minutes of the Vestry  
April 20, 2021

**Attending:** Stephanie Allen, Carrie Mash, Rene Garces, Cheryl Waechter, Robert Joines, Josh Booth, John Oldham, Kim Stoke, Beth Crow, Anne Krouse, Bill Sena, Mike Rhaney, Cuyler O'Connor, and Gail Christensen.

The meeting convened at 7:05 pm with a discussion of Acts 4:1-12 via Zoom video-conferencing due to all in-person meetings being suspended because of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

Cuyler O'Connor came before the Vestry to seek their support and approval to move ahead in the discernment process for ordination to the permanent diaconate. After questioning Cuyler by the members of the Vestry, the Vestry agreed unanimously to support Cuyler in moving forward in his discernment process.

**Approval of the March 2021 minutes:**

The minutes of the March Vestry meeting were submitted for approval. Anne moved to accept the minutes as written; Robert seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Rector's Report: Stephanie Allen**

Stephanie will be on vacation from April 26 to May 7. On the Sunday that she will be gone, Cathy Deats will celebrate. Pastoral care will be handled by Deacon David Lynch, intern Phillip Bass, and Karen McGugan.

Three services were held outdoors on Easter Sunday (April 4) with a very large attendance. We will continue to have in-person services, indoors in the Nave at 8:30 am and outside at 10:30 am. This past Sunday (April 18) the 8:30 service was livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. There was a problem with the video equipment at the 10:30 service, but we hope to broadcast both services to those unable or unwilling to attend in person. Outdoor services will continue until it gets too warm to be outside. We are permitted to have 96 indoors and outdoors, if the virus case numbers stay under 6.5%, but some folks are still fearful of meeting in person, even if vaccinated. Only bread is offered for the Eucharist, using tongs. Jason Pace may start having a choir outdoors, socially distant and masked.

There will be four funeral services indoors during May. Up to 96 attendees are permitted, but there will not be any receptions.

Vestry assignments will be scheduled by John and Carrie for the next few months, and they will update Vestry responsibilities to meet pandemic restrictions.

It has long been difficult to find ushers for both services, even before the pandemic began, so Stephanie is considering creating something like a "Super Verger" position that might attract more volunteers.

**Junior Warden's Report: Rene Garces**

Rene reported that the lawn service has begun again. Lights in the parking lots will be converted to LED, saving significant money and adjustable if too dim or too bright. A B&G workday is set for April 24, with lots of tree trimming and mulch spreading needed.

Rene has received no response yet to the plea in Glad Tidings for a replacement for Matt Chytka as head of safety and security, nor to his request for anyone with CPR training.

The Memorial Garden needs to be expanded, and grading will be required. There will have to be a decision about where the money comes from.

**Finance Report: John Oldham and Mike Rhaney**

The month-to-month figures don't look great compared to last year's, but we are still on budget. Pledges are on track, but income from regular givers is down, and of course rental income cannot compare to last year, since we have only the Kinder Garden now thanks to the pandemic. We've been able to keep expenses down, so far.

The process to forgive our PPP loan is still ongoing.

An audit review, not a full audit, is still in progress.

Although it might be cheaper to ask volunteers to take over the financial business of the church, after Business Manager Phil Kraemer retired in March, Stephanie says we need a paid bookkeeper because we are too big a church with too much money to depend on volunteers. She is in the process of developing a job description for the position.

The Vestry went into Executive Session (without the rector and the clerk of the Vestry). John will post a decision in May. In the session, the Vestry voted unanimously to allocate up to \$2700 in funding to recognize Stephanie's 10-year anniversary with Nativity. \$2000 will be provided as a one-time bonus, up to \$250 will be used for a stole made by Evelyn Judson, and up to \$450 will be used to pay for a retreat at Chetola in Blowing Rock, NC.

**NAACP Scholarship Fund: Beth Crow**

Beth announced that they have been able to raise about \$5,000 for the Scholarship Fund (a final figure will be available at the end of this month). This amount should provide five scholarships. The NAACP had been unable to raise much money, and our effort will help a great deal.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Christensen  
Clerk of the Vestry