

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VESTRY
SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OCTOBER 21, 2020

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN

- Approved the Consent Agenda
- Approved the 4th Amendment to the SMAA lease with Lincoln Properties
- Approved the Saint Michael Women's Exchange request to change credit card vendors
- Approved a contract with Sunwest Communications to provide services to SMAA

The regular meeting of the Vestry of Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church convened on October 21, 2020 via ZOOM.

Vestry members in attendance were Jay Lipscomb, Senior Warden; John Ellerman, Junior Warden; Blair Oden, Warden-at-Large; George Baldwin, Richard D'Antoni, Jane Greene, Louise Griffeth, Hallie Lawrence, Stacey Malcolmson, John McFarland, Jr., Kyle Moore, Anna Paccone, Darrel Rice and Erica Sartain.

Ex-officio members in attendance included The Rev. Dr. Chris Girata, Rector; Kathy Kelley, Treasurer; Scott Wilson, Chancellor; and Ginger Brown, Clerk. Others in attendance were The Rev. Ken Brannon, Vice Rector; Caroline Marak, Colleen O'Hara, Steve Haal, Rob Baber and Meredith Rose.

Jay Lipscomb, Senior Warden, called the meeting to order. George Baldwin opened the meeting with prayer.

Prior to the meeting the Vestry received for its review the materials included in the Consent Agenda, which consisted of the September 16, 2020 Vestry Minutes, the St. Michael Women's Exchange Report, the Saint Michael Episcopal School (SMES) Report, the Mission and Outreach Report, the Jubilee Report, and the Building and Grounds Report. Darrel Rice moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Anna Paccone seconded the motion. The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

Rector's Report

The Rector reminded the Vestry of the Vestry retreat scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2020 via ZOOM. He asked Vestry members to look over and be ready to discuss the Vision/Traction Organizer (V/TO) that was presented by Ken Brannon, Vice Rector, at the September Vestry meeting. The focus of the retreat will be the one year, three year and ten-year goals of the

parish with the purpose of going deep into where SMAA is going, how it will impact the Vestry and the work to be done in conjunction with the ten-year goals.

The Rector then discussed the plans for the Fall Parish Meeting scheduled for Sunday, October 25, 2020 from 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. He and Scott Wilson, SMAA Chancellor, will be LIVE from the Parish Hall. Voting to confirm the Vestry slate and the Diocesan Convention Delegate slate will be conducted virtually during the meeting. All members of SMAA in good standing will receive an email with a link to the ballot and must be present to vote. Voting will require a password, which will be announced by the Chancellor at the beginning of the meeting, and voters will have 15 minutes to vote. Results of the vote will be LIVE at 10:30 a.m. A meeting of the Vestry will follow at 10:45 a.m. to ratify the election. During the parish meeting the Rector will update the parish on the Campus construction plans, SMAA response to the pandemic, Stewardship and the fall study on Discipleship as well as the broad state of the church, including attendance and the current financial picture.

The Rector reported the upcoming Diocesan convention will be conducted this year via ZOOM and noted that several SMAA parishioners - Bob Buchanan, Kelly Reddell and J.C. Snead – are up for election for Diocesan positions. He further noted that the 2021 Diocesan Budget had been reduced by approximately 15% from the 2020 budget in an effort to be responsive to the financial strain experienced by many of the parishes during the 2020 pandemic.

Other news reported by the Rector included a new kick off date of August 2021 for the 75th Anniversary celebration, rescheduling of all of the previously scheduled guests and the addition of three former Vice-Rectors in the Spring of 2022, a visit from Bishop Michael Curry in the Fall of 2021, and the 75th Anniversary Parish Party in April 2022. He announced that Stacey Malcolmson and Erica Sartain would be Co-Chairs of the SMAA Task Force on Racial Issues. They are currently working on the scope and deliverables for the task force, which they will bring to the Vestry followed by a selection of additional members for the task force.

Due to the limitations of the church building there will not be enough space for the usual numbers attending the Christmas services. To address this, the Rector said they are being very creative and that final plans are in the works and will be announced soon.

Senior Warden Report

Jay Lipscomb thanked the Rector and Scott Wilson for putting together the Fall Parish Meeting and figuring out how to have an annual meeting with voting and people not actually physically in attendance. He spoke about the Special Vestry meeting scheduled immediately after the Annual meeting for 10:45 a.m. via ZOOM. He said the resolution would be sent to the Vestry in advance and emphasized the need to have a quorum for the vote ratifying the selection of new Vestry members and Diocesan delegates.

The Senior Warden presented an amendment to the Lincoln Properties (LPC) ground lease to the Vestry for discussion and vote. The amendment, specifically addressing the start of lease payments scheduled for November 1, was sent to the Vestry for their review prior to the meeting. The amendment will give Lincoln Properties up to six (6) extensions each for a period of 30 days. LPC will pay \$40,000 for each 30-day extension with \$22,500 going to the church and \$17,500 going to the Horizon Fund. It is expected that LPC will start on the project in March or April 2021. The Senior Warden moved to approve the amendment, and Kyle Moore seconded the motion. Discussion followed on some minor non-financial points of discussion in the lease that will be cleaned up prior to the development taking off. It was also noted that the economic climate has changed since the lease was executed. The Vestry voted unanimously to approve the 4th Amendment to the Lease.

Junior Warden Report

John Ellerman commented on the powerful message delivered by the Rector and Bishop Curry at the recent virtual discussion of Bishop Curry's new book and the great opportunity to partner with Interabang Books to co-sponsor the event that represented SMAA so well on a national basis. He expressed thanks to the SMAA staff and commended them on new ideas and expanded program offerings including Compline and outdoor worship. He also encouraged everyone to go to Interabang Books and purchase autographed copies of Bishop Curry's book.

Stewardship Report

Caroline Marak thanked the Vestry and the Colonnatas for their leadership in the 2021 Stewardship campaign. She reported 293 pledges year to date totalling \$2MM – 40 pledges more than the same period last year. The campaign has reached 33% of the \$6.25MM goal in the first three weeks. At this point 50% of those returning pledges have increased their pledges, and the average for returning pledges is \$9,000. She reported that the Stewardship Committee would be reaching out to parishioners asking for increases and that follow up calls will be made at the end of October to all non-responders.

Jay Lipscomb thanked the Vestry for their response to the leadership request and being the first leadership group to reach 100% participation.

Finance Report

Kathy Kelley reported that the Finance Committee reviewed and approved two fundraising requests from Chana Bhan on behalf of Mission Outreach. The requests are for the I Believe in Angels project for Jubilee Park and Community Center and Heart of Giving, which will have four recipients – Aunt Bette's Community Pantry, Jubilee Park and Community Center, North Dallas Shared Ministries and the Good Samaritan Fund.

Kathy also reported that the Finance Committee approved and recommended to the Vestry a request from the Saint Michael Women's Exchange to change credit card vendors from Bank of

America to Chase Bank to allow the Exchange to use cash back rewards that are available with the Chase credit card. The credit card line for \$105,000 is backed by SMAA and requires Vestry approval. The Committee also approved a request for SMAA to hire Sunwest Communications on a monthly retainer of \$5500, also requiring Vestry approval due to the size of the contract.

Discussion among Vestry members followed regarding the purpose, benefits and services to be provided under the Sunwest Communications contract and how it should be funded. It was decided that the Finance Committee would consider how to allocate the funding of the contract fees based on the scope of work to be done. Sunwest is expected to provide services to the Capital Campaign, the 75th Anniversary celebration, the North Land project, and SMAA internal and external communication.

George Baldwin moved for approval to accept the agreement with Sunwest Communications and to approve the credit card vendor change for the Saint Michael Women's Exchange. Richard D'Antoni seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Vestry.

Kathy then gave a financial update through 9/30/2020. September was a good month for collecting pledges, and the month ended with current year pledges \$55M over budget. All expense areas, with the exception of Liturgy and Worship, are under budget, and the preschool continues to have a significant positive variance contributing to a budget surplus at the end of September of \$609M. A year end surplus of \$250 - \$300M is projected based on pledges that are budgeted to pay at the end of the year offset by HVAC and boiler expenses and the purchase of laptops for staff.

The Rector noted that they are aware that there will not be a critical mass of people in the building during the month of December and that the church will have to approach the Christmas plate, Heart of Giving and I Believe in Angels differently. He said they were working on a clear plan to communicate giving opportunities especially for Mission and Outreach and to make it easy for people to participate without being onsite.

Final Thoughts

The Rector said that he is grateful that SMAA remembers our responsibility to be disciples and that it feels good to have a smooth operation working efficiently in the middle of a pandemic. He said he was excited about the direction of the church and grateful to be part of a church doing what Bishop Curry is encouraging – follow the way of love.

The October meeting of the Vestry was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Brown
Clerk of the Vestry

