

St Timothy's Vestry

Minutes: August 3, 2021 Meeting

Present: Pastor Stephanie Kopsch; Shawn Murphy, Senior Warden; Bob Fullerton, Junior Warden; Dennis Haugh, Treasurer; Mother Lauren Thomas, Associate Rector; Dominic Dezzutti; Tim Mills; Victoria Parker; Ann Pontius; Neil Scarlett; Marie Schriefer.

Regrets: Jessica Ross; Jennifer Saldanha; Katharine Wells.

Called to Order: Shawn called the meeting to order, there being a quorum present at 6:35 PM. Dennis Haugh agreed to prepare minutes of the meeting.

Spiritual Reflection

Pastor Stephanie invited reflection on the story of the woman crippled for 18 years found in Luke 13:10-17, particularly considering how the pandemic caused us to not see each other as fully human (Zoom screens limit to head and shoulders while masks hide most of the face) and when do we react indignantly when an otherwise joyful event occurs.

After some 20 minutes of reflection and sharing, Pastor Stephanie brought this to a close.

Agenda

Shawn had emailed a proposed agenda to all members. This agenda was adopted for the meeting.

Minutes of July 13 Vestry Meeting

Katharine Wells had previously distributed proposed minutes of the July meeting. Bob had a few comments on them. Victoria moved and Neil seconded that the minutes as adjusted for Bob's comments be adopted. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Dennis had previously distributed a short report with a preliminary Statement of Activities for June 30, 2021. There were no questions. There was general relief that a permanent, professional financial administrator was due to start August 16.

Rector Report

Pastor Stephanie had previously distributed a Rector's Report and a copy of an email sent to parishioners who previously had worshipped principally at the 7:45 service. Pastor Stephanie called the Vestry's attention in particular to the last sentence in her report: "I am open to other goals and suggestions if there are other areas you want me to focus on but looking at the congregation at the moment it seems to me that what people want and need most right now are venues to be together and exchange stories."

The members engaged in a vigorous, wide-ranging discussion on many aspects of this. There was general agreement that the general goal of fostering opportunities to restore connections was a top priority for the Vestry. In that context, the benefits, risks, and costs of reinstating the 7:45 service or moving the single service to 9:00 drew particular attention. Pastor Stephanie believes that now is not the time to introduce much change as there is likely to be much more change in the future. Depending on the course of the pandemic, changes could be favorable (relaxing health restrictions) or unfavorable (reinstating restrictions on indoor gatherings). Considering the explosion of cases in the United States, Colorado, and Arapahoe County over the last six weeks, more restrictions seem more likely in the near future.

The staff has rethought original proposals to hold a Fall Festival on September 12 and to host parishioner gatherings on Wednesday evenings. The Fall Festival is now set for September 19, the first Sunday after Labor Day that Pastor Stephanie, Mother Lauren, and Youth Minister John Putnam will all be present. The Wednesday evening gatherings have been repurposed as structured post-10:00 service coffee hours with more substantial food and drink provided so that parishioners will not have to leave for lunch.

Pastor Stephanie noted that Don Marxhausen and Doris Cruze will be restarting the Grief Group in September.

Senior Warden Report

Shawn emailed his report with the proposed agenda. He had several updates for the Vestry. First, there was a full slate of delegates for the Diocesan Convention: Dixon Cravens, Nancy Hough, Tim Mills, Andi Spoor, and Margaret Utter.

Second, staffing the Search Committee, chaired by Tim Mills, would begin in earnest this week. Nancy Hough, currently on the Profile Committee, has agreed to serve as a representative and holdover from that committee. Shawn will place a note in this week's E-Newsletter asking for volunteers for the committee. There will be a limited time to apply for the committee.

Third, Dixon Cravens has agreed to coordinate the Family Promise effort at St. Tim's. In that regard, Dixon has asked for a sense of whether the Vestry supports hosting Family Promise for two weeks in 2022. There was widespread agreement that supporting Family Promise was a significant part of St Tim's mission.

Shawn was less happy to report that there is still no chair for the Stewardship committee.

Junior Warden Report

Bob had emailed a report along with a copy of the report from Jana Loyd, chair of the Property Committee. From the latter report, Bob reported that Jana was in the process of contracting with Brown Brothers to fix the potholes in the parking lot. This will be a \$1,875 relatively short-term fix, not the major rework that, from an engineering perspective, may well be justified even now.

Rector Search: Profile Committee

Bob Fullerton, chair of the Profile Committee, had emailed the current drafts of the Community Portfolio Worksheet and the Parish Profile. He explained that the Profile committee was expecting to meet next morning (August 4) to complete the work on the Profile. While Bob expressed a desire to hear all of the comments and corrections on the Profile that members of the Vestry might have (and there were several minor comments), in particular he wished Vestry's input on two questions: Should the goals set out in the Profile include engaging in the Believe Out Loud process? Should Pastor Stephanie's video be on the Profile?

As to the first, Bob reported that Canon Vanessa had raised the possibility of including the Believe Out Loud process as a goal for the parish. Bob did not agree that it warranted separate notice. First of all, the Vestry's action is described precisely in the Community Portfolio Worksheet (under the "preparing for the future" question starting on page 3). There is little more that one can say at this point. Further, the Believe Out Loud process is but one of many programs and processes that the parish is undertaking.

The Vestry discussed the issue at length. There was a clear consensus in agreement with Bob's recommendation not to include the Believe Out Loud process among the goals for St. Timothy's.

As to the second question, Pastor Stephanie has been reluctant to have her 3:19 video on the Profile as she is an interim member of the staff, not one who will be here when the next rector takes the position. The consensus of the Vestry was that indeed the video should be included with the Profile as it provides the potential applicants with a sense of the person who preceded them at St. Timothy's.

Bob set out the next steps for the search process. Once the committee has completed editing the documents, presumably on August 4, the Community Portfolio Worksheet will be sent to the diocese for posting on the Colorado and national websites. The final draft of the Profile will be sent to the graphic designer to produce the final copy. That will be posted on the St. Tim's and diocesan websites. Depending on the availability of the designer, the postings could be up within a week's time.

In the future, members of the Profile Committee plan to meet to consider "lessons learned" from their experiences.

Many of the Vestry complimented Bob and asked him to pass their compliments on the excellent work to the Profile Committee. They recognized the effort that went into the work so far. Reflecting the sense of the Vestry, Dennis made a motion that Bob convey to the members of the Profile committee – Bob Fullerton (chair), Mary Carr, Nancy Hough, Donna Packard, Jason Parker, and Pastor Stephanie (ex officio) – their profound gratitude and sincere compliments for work exceptionally well done. Dominic seconded the motion which carried by acclamation. As a further token of their appreciation, the Vestry then gave Bob a standing ovation.

Other Matters

Dominic raised the question about continuing to ask for reports from the 2020 Vestry committees. This will be a matter for future discussion.

Calendar Review

September 7	Next Vestry meeting
September 19	Ministry Fair/Fall Festival

Adjournment

By consensus, the meeting ended at 8:25 PM.