

St. Gregory's of Nyssa Regular Vestry Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2020

Present by phone: Tim, Paul, Linda, Joe, Margaret, Burton, Anne, Keith, Katherine

Also Present: Sarah Lehman

1. Paul convened the March meeting of the SGN vestry with a prayer at 1:05pm.
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. The Agenda for the march meeting of the SGN vestry was unanimously adopted.
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes from the February meeting of the SGN vestry were unanimously adopted.
4. COVID-19 Response Discussion
 - a. Paul gave an update on the SGN food pantry. The pantry has decided to close for at least the next four weeks to prevent the spread of the virus. This decision was made after careful consideration and discussion of the risks and benefits of remaining open. The pantry is looking at the option of coordinating with a food bank that would allow for delivery of groceries to particularly vulnerable populations. Burton asked how the pantry would inform people that it was closing. Paul said that attendees had been told at Friday's pantry, and that notices would be posted on the church doors going forward.
 - b. Margaret asked what the plans were currently for holy week. Paul said that he's not currently sure; several parishioners have responded to his request for thoughts and ideas. Paul said he was looking at options for increased digital participation, as well as the possibility of doing a Pentecost vigil if the restrictions on meetings are lifted by Pentecost. For Maundy Thursday Paul said he is considering some way for people to have dinner at home and participate in a digital way with the broader community. Sarah said that it would be important to make sure people who live alone can participate. Katherine raised the possibility of interspersing short SGN Holy Week video clips during online Holy Week services.
 - c. Tim asked how the SGN staff were doing. Paul said that the staff are doing alright. He is trying to find ways to incorporate more music into the SGN streams.
 - d. Paul said that he was trying to find ways to stay connected with groups that rent space at the church. SGN is refunding rental payments as requested, but is trying to get renters to think about rescheduling their events once the disease passes through.
 - e. Paul said Tai Chi is cancelled for now. He is currently hopeful that summer events will be able to go on as scheduled, such as FoG camp and the Icon Workshop.
 - f. Tim asked if there were any other actions that the vestry could take to help with the process. Paul said he didn't have anything at this time, but to stay tuned in the next few weeks.
5. Vocations Committee Business
 - a. Tim said that the vestry must sign the PR2 form for AnnaMarie Hoos. Paul explained that the form represents the vestry's affirmation of AnnaMarie's call to ministry.
 - b. The vestry unanimously affirmed AnnaMarie's call to vestry and voted to sign the PR-2 form.
6. Finance Report
 - a. Tim said that the vestry needs to adopt a resolution to allow the officers of the vestry and finance committee to update the signers on the church accounts to reflect the current co-conveners of the vestry. The resolution has been appended to the minutes.

- b. The vestry unanimously adopted the resolution.
 - c. Keith gave a summary of Leesy's finance report. The church is keeping with expense and income trajectories, which is good. Keith said the main thing on his mind is the overall economic climate we're moving into with the Covid19 pandemic. Katherine said she was happy that Leesy updated the church on giving during today's streamed prayer service. Tim said that most of the church funds are conservatively invested, so they may not be heavily impacted by the market. Keith pointed out that giving patterns may change however. Paul discussed ways that he hopes to keep giving healthy as the church continues with digital services.
7. Rector's Report
- a. Paul said that there is some emergency funding available for parishes, and that he is considering asking for some to use for a deep-clean of the pantry and kitchens. Paul said he plans to continue being at church when services are normally held to explain to people why it is closed, and for 1:1s with concerned parishioners.
 - b. Paul said the vestry must receive the annual parochial report. Paul gave a brief overview of the report, saying that the report reflects a healthy year for SGN.
 - c. The vestry unanimously voted to receive the annual parochial report.
 - d. Paul said that Peter Levenstrong had met with the bishop last week, and that the bishop had given his approval for SGN to extend an offer of employment to Peter. Sarah Lehman asked for more transparency with the parish around the selection process. The vestry discussed ways to accommodate this.
 - e. Burton asked if, given the economy, the parish should move ahead with hiring an assistant rector. Linda said that she felt the position should still be filled, and that the assistance would be sorely needed in the coming months. Burton and the rest of the vestry agreed.
8. Membership Report
- a. Linda said that SGN had gained seven new members this year, and that more were interested in joining. Linda said she is considering ways to engage with new members digitally.
9. The March meeting of the SGN vestry was adjourned at 2:40pm.

Financial Account Signing Authority

RESOLVED, that the Vestry authorizes the three officers holding the titles Vice President or Treasurer to act on behalf of St. Gregory Nyssen Episcopal Church in these specified matters relating to the church's financial accounts. Any two of the officers may, representing the Finance Committee, attest the individuals who hold those offices from time to time, and may sign any documents required by the two financial institutions noted below, to change authorized signers on our accounts.

For the purposes of Bank of America Business Checking Account ending in *095 and Business Card Account ending in *369 in the name of St. Gregory Nyssen Episcopal Church, and Charles Schwab Investment Account ending in *614 in the name of Episcopal Church of St. Gregory Nyssen, only one signature shall be required on any transaction. Authorization granted by this resolution shall extend to online or voice-authorized transactions, and shall apply to any successor accounts to those listed herein.

The Vestry re-affirms that the Finance Committee shall be comprised of the officers holding the titles President, Vice President, Finance Commissioner, and Treasurer.

Passed by the Vestry at its meeting on March 15, 2020.

Certified by:


Joseph Bolling, Secretary