

St. Gregory's of Nyssa Regular Vestry Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2020

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

1. Paul convened the May meeting of the vestry with a prayer at 11:05 AM.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes from the March meeting of the vestry were unanimously adopted.
 - b. Minutes from the April meeting of the vestry were updated to add Margaret to absent list and to change the phrasing of item 5A. to "recently" from "yet."
 - c. Minutes from the April meeting of the vestry were unanimously adopted as amended.
3. COVID19 Closures
 - a. Paul said that SF is expected to re-open to phase 2 tomorrow. He has not yet received guidance from the diocese about when and how the church will re-open, but has been having conversations about how it might look. He is considering things like how to limit the total number of people in the building, what the liturgy might look like, having services with different degrees of contact, reducing or removing singing, etc.
 - b. Tim asked what of this work can be offloaded to the vestry or to other committees. Paul said it may be beneficial to have a "parish re-entry committee" to talk through these items. We will know more once we hear from the diocese. Katherine said it might be worth putting out a call for interested people in the weekly email. It would be good to have representation from someone in public health, someone involved with family ministry, a choir member, and someone from the vestry.
 - c. Paul said the grounds in front of the church need weeding; Linda said she would enjoy weeding, and suggested Paul put out an open invitation for local parishioners to stop by and weed in the weekly newsletter.
 - d. Linda and Paul agreed that it would be good to continue having streamed liturgy even after the church building re-opened. Linda said that the online services have been very powerful.
4. Finance Report
 - a. Keith gave a summary of Leesy's financial email. Keith said that the majority of the SGN budget is non-discretionary; things like payroll, etc. Expenses and income are equivalently down so far in 2020, which is good. We are still waiting for a better sense of how the economy will impact us, but so far we haven't seen any huge issues, and expect to be ok through the end of 2020. Our sense is that will take many more months before we really understand the impact of Covid19.
 - b. Katherine asked if anyone had expressed an interest in taking on the finance commissioner position after Keith departs. Paul said that we have until the beginning of 2021, and that he has not yet asked or heard from anyone.
5. Membership Report
 - a. Linda said that she and Paul had spoken about what membership work means in an online world, and that she has been reaching out to new members. She has been working with Holly, Susannah Singer, and Rick Cornelius to welcome new members. They are forming a "welcoming committee," to talk about more ways to engage new members.
 - b. Linda asked if anyone had ideas for good ways to distribute the service livestream links without decreasing security. Paul said that Zoom bombing is still an issue, and that the diocese has still been directing churches to keep security tight. He wondered if there might

be safe ways to involve new members using our recorded service postings. Paul suggested Linda reach out to Kyle Oliver to discuss options for streaming.

- c. Tim suggested we consider using the Zoom breakout room feature to facilitate smaller conversations similar to 15 good minutes.

6. Rector's Report

- a. Paul said that Rosa Lee Harden had contacted him regarding work she is doing around working on a Thriving Congregations Lilly fund grant. He said she has asked if SGN would consider being the fiscal sponsor of her grant, meaning the grant money, if awarded, would be managed by SGN and dispensed to her from the church accounts. Paul said he thinks that Rosa Lee's work is important, and that some of the money would be eligible for church use. It's not yet clear that the money will be granted or that it will be necessary for SGN to provide sponsorship. Paul will keep the vestry posted.
- b. Burton asked if there was any risk to SGN regarding the proposal. Paul said that he has not yet spoken to Leesy about this, and so he isn't sure. Keith said there would probably be some additional reporting requirements on SGN, but that he thought the relationship would be helpful to the church.
- c. Katherine and Linda expressed support for the proposal. Anne said she would want to make sure the money was well-controlled, but otherwise thought the idea sounded good.
- d. Paul said he would wait for more info from Rosa Lee and might request a digital vote from the vestry if we move forward.
- e. Paul said that Peter's incoming Bishop Deon had asked Bishop Mark to ordain Peter on his behalf. Bishop Mark had suggested he ordain both Peter and AnnaMarie Hoos in a small ceremony (with maybe 10 or so people present) at SGN one June 27. Paul is evaluating the best ways to make this celebration work, and how to involve the congregation.
- f. Paul said he's opened a new zoom account for Youth & Family Ministry, and another multipurpose account for general parish use (e.g. icon painting workshops).

7. Other Business

- a. Katherine asked if the food pantry might consider buying food gift cards to give to people in case they have to turn people away for lack of bagged food.

8. The May meeting of the SGN Vestry was adjourned at 12:14pm. The next vestry meeting is scheduled for June 21.