

# **ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

## **Vestry Meeting Minutes**

**Special Meeting, Saturday, May 18, 2019**

**Call to Order 9:10 a.m.**

**In Attendance:** Marie Piadade, Phyllis Spaziano, Sandy Leigh, Jacki Zahn, Tina Caldwell, John Gallonio, Nancy Burton, Al Parillo, Amanda Scott, Canon Linda Grenz, Carolyn Villanova, Martha Brown, Charles Miller

**Prayer offered by Canon Linda Grenz**

**Approval of the Agenda:** M-S-A

**Interim Priest –**

- Canon Grenz apologized for the time delay and confusion concerning the proposed interim priest.
- Concerns regarding the budget and costs related to the interim were discussed. Pledges and fundraisers are down, and the church has been operating at a deficit. It will be extremely difficult to pay for an interim and expend the costs for engaging a new full-time priest. Canon Grenz reassured those present that it is normal for there to be a decline with change in clergy. Different scenarios were discussed: Long term supply priests, full time interim, part time interim, month-month scheduling. A proposal utilizing Morning/Evening Prayer with Grace, 2 weekends with Rev. Parker, and 1 weekend with Rev. Gregory was also discussed.
- An extensive conversation ensued regarding issues within the Parish. The Parish is divided.
- It was proposed that June 2, the first Sunday in June there will be a Parish Meeting with Canon Grenz
- A discussion ensued regarding the issues with setting up the committees for the discernment process. The communication of the process was problematic.
- An issue regarding communication especially regarding fundraising was explored. It was recommended that a representative from the fundraising committee be at every vestry meeting. It was expressed that it is difficult to get people to volunteer. It was recommended that once an event is set up, people need to be personally invited to volunteer.

- Appreciation was expressed to Carolyn, Charlie and Marty for attending this meeting.
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- Communicate and Community-something must be communicated 7 times in order to be heard/processed. You need to over communicate. This is true for any fundraising activity, all committees and the vestry.
- We all need to assume good intent in each other
- An option for the parish is to have a Priest-in-Charge. Would be under contract for 1-2 years and could then become the rector.
- It was decided to proceed with the Parish Meeting on June 2. To discuss ½ time long term supply with Rev. Parker. Rev. Gregory would provide backup and handle 1 week/month. 1 week/month would have Morning/Evening prayer. Rev. Parker would handle the healing services. The parish needs to hear the different options available within the confines of the clergy shortage.
- The meeting will be communicated to the parish via letter, email and announcements.
- Parishioner concerns-several pastoral needs were discussed.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Canon Grenz

Adjourned at 10:47 a.m. M-S-A

**Faithfully submitted by Phyllis Spaziano**