**St. Brendan the Navigator**

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**

**August 31, 2017**

Present: Lis Ingoldsby, Josephine Jacob, Pete Dane, Peter Tarlton, Barbara Kourajian, and Father Edward Dufresne.

Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. Fr. Dufresne offered an opening prayer.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the August 15th and August 24th Vestry meetings were reviewed and approved.

**Mission Statement and Values Statement Document**

We reviewed the document that Fr. Dufresne prepared with the help of Lis, Peter Tarlton, and Barbara. We made some revisions to the two proposed models for a parish mission statement. They now read:

1) The Mission of St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church is to **love, serve** and **praise**:

* to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
* to **serve** the needs of each other and those on the island and beyond,
* to **praise** God in all things.

2) The Mission of St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church is to love one another as Christ loves us, to support each other on our journey in faith, and to minister to the needs of those on the island and beyond.

This document will be included in the newsletter, on the website, and posted on the bulletin board with copies in the back of the church.

**Model Ministry Descriptions**

Fr. Dufresne passed out a Model Ministry Description for our review. The description allows us to fully see the structure he is proposing for the congregation in order for us to be organized for mission and ministry. He stated when you organize for ministry there are three important considerations:

1) Clear sense of scope of responsibility

2) Clear understanding of the authority to carry out the responsibility

3) Clear lines of accountability for the work you are doing according to the

responsibilities outlined

The Model Ministry Description is in the form of a Continuing Resolution. A Continuing Resolution is a policy, a standing way in which we will organize. When we decide on a Continuing Resolution, we add it to the Vestry handbook. Resolutions are numbered and dated. A Continuing Resolution can be changed by a vote of the Vestry.

Fr. Dufresne explained that adopting these ministry descriptions will be a consultative process. It will only be adopted after people in the ministry approve it. It is a model for them to make their own. The ministry description can be empowering and clarifying and is meant to challenge and not stifle innovation. It provides discipline and accountability around the ministries.

We carefully considered the model Fr. Dufresne presented. After much discussion, it was decided that Fr. Dufresne and Lis will draft another proposal to reflect some of our concerns – namely, a ministry leadership partnership between the priest and Vestry, a process that is seen and understood as inclusive and collaborative. We felt we may need to live into these descriptions.

**Other Business**

Fr. Dufresne mentioned we need to change the date of our Annual Meeting to conform with the bylaws. We thought this was voted on and passed. Pete Dane will check on this.

We briefly discussed how to create more congeniality and conviviality in our parish. Some ideas: presentations/discussions followed by dinners, coffeehouses, hymn sings, ecumenical events.

The next Vestry/Renewal team meeting will be Wednesday, September 6th at

2 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to confirm a new Model Ministry Description and to discuss deployment of personnel for our ministries.

We closed the meeting by reading the Prayer of St. Brendan together. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Barbara Kourajian

Clerk