**St. Brendan the Navigator**

**Minutes of the Vestry/Renewal Team Meeting**

**August 9, 2018**

Present: Lis Ingoldsby, Josephine Jacob, Pete Dane, Miriam Antich, Meg Graham, Barbara Kourajian, Vesta Kowalski and Father Edward Dufresne.

Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Pete Dane offered an opening prayer.

**Review and acceptance of the July 10th Meeting Minutes**

Pete moved to accept the Minutes of the June meeting; Miriam seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Financial Report**

Pete reported there was nothing remarkable on this month’s report. He mentioned the Building and Grounds contingency is above budget and due to the cold winter, the propane is also above budget.

**Annual Meeting: Debriefing and Next Steps**

Items noted for follow-up after the Annual Meeting:

* Adjust budget to include a Capital Fund: Pete said there is a Capital Account and it is empty.
* Clarification needed on the Outreach budget: Pete explained that Outreach’s report to the Annual Meeting was their activity from the July 2017 Annual Meeting to the July 2018 Annual Meeting. It does not match up because the financial reports are on a calendar year. Pete felt we didn’t need to address this.
* Buildings and Grounds: Meg Graham reported B & G met last Tuesday. Their priority list:

1. The altar steps (top priority). Meg will investigate cast iron railings for the altar area.
2. Improving the access in the back of the church with gravel and signage. Lis asked about a button to open the door automatically. We briefly discussed the metal ramp in front of the church. It is not regulation and Jo mentioned another organization could use it. We decided to remove it.
3. Paint and repair the outside window trim
4. A complete reworking of the side gardens including moving the last two boulders

5) Flesh out the Capital Reserve Fund to understand what the timing is for each of these projects; make it official so we are adding a certain amount to the Reserve each year. Both Pete and Meg raised the question of where the money is coming from to fund these projects. The Endowment was mentioned as a source for funding.

6) Consideration of the proposal for a library for theological and spiritual books. At this time, Buildings and Grounds recommends not to use up any of our current available space for this. While we are appreciative to Mickey Jacoba for this proposal, we are not seeing a good solution. Additionally, a number of questions were raised including administration of this collection. Pete moved to table this discussion to the next meeting, so we can think of a creative solution. Barbara seconded the motion. The motion passed.

* We will be recruiting new members for ministries after coffee hour on August 12th and 19th. Vestry will need to review/appoint Ministry chairs/co-chairs in the near future.

**Next Steps on Renewal Goal #5**

Fr. Dufresne stated we have completed the Renewal Plan except for Goal #5. He commented that we have a whole lot of momentum behind this and we need to make hay when the season is right. He said St. Brendan’s is at its best when our seasonal members are here.

He noted we have done due diligence about costs. He recommended to frame our needs as looking for a one-third Priest-in-Charge and two associate priests (“one-third plus two”). Due diligence requires us to come up with an additional $16,000 for the Priest-in-Charge. Once we have secured this in additional pledging, we should move ahead with a search process. We should not move ahead if we have to rely on the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund could be considered our Capital Expense Fund.

He said that once we get to the $16,000 in increased pledging, we do not ask the sustainability question on whether we can afford this in the future. Rather, we plunge ahead, get the priest on board, and see where the momentum leads us. The 15-10 vote from the Annual Meeting stands; most of the votes against beginning the process had to do with financial concerns.

What followed was a lengthy discussion on the vote to form a Discernment Committee. Fr. Dufresne clarified that what we as a parish have been calling the Discernment Committee, the Diocese would call a Search Committee. Fr. Dufresne said it is premature for us to consider a Search Committee, even though it’s what we thought we wanted. It is premature until we get to the $16,000 and receive permission from the Diocese to start the search process.

We decided to hold off on establishing a Discernment Committee for the moment, given the fact that, as soon as a search process is begun, a Discernment Committee must be established to carry out its work with a charge from the Vestry and according to diocesan guidelines. We decided to have a special Parish Meeting on Sunday, August 26th to vote on a proposal from the Vestry/Renewal Team about the next steps to achieve Renewal Goal #5. This plan/proposal will include:

* Meeting a financial commitment for a one-third Priest-in-Charge plus two associates. Once this is met, the search will begin immediately and the Renewal Plan is completed.
* Acknowledgement that we are willing to continue a relationship with Trinity Castine with the possibility of sharing one priest with two separate ministries if possible.
* Receiving a nod from the Diocese that we are ready to start this process once the financial commitment of $16,000 is met. The Diocese has specific guidelines on how to conduct a search.
* Asking the Parish to commit to an every-member contact in this stewardship campaign to ensure $16,000 in secured pledges. This will start immediately after the special meeting.
* Automatically declaring an end to the Parish Renewal Period if and when the goal of $16,000 in confirmed additional pledging is reached and a Search Process is initiated.

Fr. Dufresne and Lis will work on this proposal and circulate it to the Vestry. Miriam and Pete will start organizing the Stewardship Committee, which needs to be in place before August 26th. Vesta suggested the committee be available after the August 26th meeting for anyone who wants to have this conversation about their pledge.

**Other Business**

* The Parish Lobster Picnic will be Saturday, August 11th, 12 noon at the Tarlton's.
* The next Vestry/Renewal Team meeting will be September 13th at 10 a.m. [The Vestry subsequently decided to meet on Friday, September 7 at 10 a.m.] Future meetings will be October 10th at 10 a.m. and November 7th at 10 a.m.

We closed the meeting by reading the Prayer of St. Brendan together. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Barbara Kourajian,

Clerk