**St. Brendan the Navigator**

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

**July 10, 2018**

Present: Lis Ingoldsby, Josephine Jacob, Pete Dane, Rich Paget, Peter Tarlton, Miriam Antich, Barbara Kourajian and Vesta Kowalski. Skip Greenlaw was also present.

Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Peter Tarlton offered an opening prayer and read his poem “Hairline Fractures and the Arrows of Time.”

**Review and acceptance of the June 21st Meeting Minutes**

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

**Debriefing of the June 24th Parish Forum**

Lis said feedback on the Parish Forum has been good. Peter Tarlton reported 20 survey responses have been returned, which is about half of the pledging units.   Between 75-80% of the respondents are in favor of Option 3, the hiring of a one-third time priest.   The survey yielded thoughtful comments, ideas, and questions for us to consider.

As for indications of financial support, most members responded with an adjustment to their pledge.  Several offered gifts and some would consider Planned Giving.  Peter commented that offering a menu of choices makes sense.   He thought we could count on an additional $10,000 a year from the 50% who responded.   He suggested that the pattern of people who responded is not all that different from the profile of those who have yet to respond; chances are we may get the same from those who haven't responded.

We looked at a graph of anticipated additional income. Peter recommended we take a close look at the end of the bar graph which shows the top 11 pledges representing $52,000 of our $82,000 budget.  He stated it is important to know the age of this top group; do we have a pending problem or not?  This type of analysis could be incorporated into our thinking on long-term sustainability.

NEXT STEPS:   We agreed to wait until we receive any additional surveys (in response to Lis's reminder email) before we compile the results for the Annual Meeting. Peter Tarlton and Miriam will prepare a summary of the survey which will be handed out at the Meeting.

We also agreed to set aside time at the Annual Meeting for feedback on the survey results.

**Revised Resolution re: Fidelity Account**

Pete presented the following resolution recommended by the Finance & Stewardship Ministry:

*To open up an account with Fidelity, to invest such portions of the Operating Fund in certificates of deposit or similar instruments as the Finance Committee, from time to time, deems prudent. The following persons are authorized to conduct trading of any assets in the account:*

*Ruth Robinson, Chair of Finance Committee*

*Nathan Dane III, Treasurer*

*Carolyn Mor, Bookkeeper*

*The following persons are authorized to write checks withdrawing funds from the account:*

*Nathan Dane III, Treasurer*

*Carolyn Mor, Bookkeeper*

This resolution allows cash in the Fidelity account to earn more interest than it would earn in our bank account. Additionally, the account would be the vehicle for stock gifts to be liquidated.

  Pete moved the resolution be accepted; Miriam seconded the motion. The

motion passed.

**Nominating Committee Update**

Barbara reported the Committee is making good progress and they hope to finish their work by next week.

Lis asked:  "As a courtesy, should the Vestry know the slate of officers before the meeting?" This started a discussion on what is stated in the bylaws on the matter. Currently, we have a set of "Guidelines" for the Nominating Committee which does not stipulate the Vestry be notified.  Pete Dane stated the Nominating Committee is responsible for coming up with a slate of officers with at least one person nominated per position. Vesta stated our bylaws should reflect what our protocol is.   This needs to be addressed (see below).

It was noted that Delegates will attend both the Diocesan convention in October and the Electing Convention for the Bishop in early February.   This information needs to be conveyed to those being asked.

**Discussion about the 2017-2018 Annual Meeting & Annual Report**

Lis has notified Ministry Chairs and others that reports are due on Friday, July 13th for the Annual Report.   Copies of the Report will be available on July 22nd, so members will have time to read the report before the Annual Meeting.   Lis and Barbara will work on the agenda for the meeting.

**Other Business**

* The annual Lobster Picnic will be Saturday, August 11th, 12 noon at the Tarlton's.
* The Parish Directory is in the process of being updated.    It has been circulated at church for corrections and has been updated based on information gleaned from Constant Contact.
* The Vestry Handbook and Policies needs to be revised.   This project will be handed to the next Vestry. A team needs to be identified to start this task.
* Lis is anticipating a shortage of available Supply Priests for November and December.  Both Vesta Kowalski and Steve Hayward are not available those months.
* We briefly discussed St. Brendan's housing a small library for books on theology and spirituality. Several members are interested in finding a new home for their books.   Jo Jacob and Meg Graham, members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, are addressing this and will present a recommendation.
* Skip Greenlaw suggested starting the Stewardship campaign while summer folks are still here.   He stressed the importance of one-on-one visits with parishioners.  Vesta echoed what Edward Dufresne has said:  "If we don't do this face-to-face, we don't have a chance to raise the money."

        A Stewardship Team will need to be named at our next Vestry meeting.    We

decided to kick-off the Stewardship Campaign with a brunch on Sunday, August 19th.  Meetings with parishioners will follow. In preparation for these conversations, the Finance & Stewardship Ministry will revise the Planned Giving/Stock Options brochure.

* Peter Tarlton shared a comment about St. Brendan’s that was expressed at the Monday Bible Study:  "We have a diversity of faith expression in a safe and welcoming environment."   Peter asked:  “Is it possible that we have embodied an ability to hold constructive conversation about faith and justice issues while following a model of curiosity and appreciative inquiry that could be a service to the community and attract new members?”

        It was suggested we place brochures or fliers advertising our offerings at St.

Brendan's at the Tourist Info Center and at local hotels.

**Executive Session**

The Vestry went into Executive Session.

   The next Vestry/Renewal Team meeting will be August 9th at 10 a.m. Thanks were extended to Peter Tarlton and Rich Paget for their service to the Vestry.

We closed the meeting by reading the Prayer of St. Brendan together. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Barbara Kourajian,

Clerk