

Vestry meeting minutes June 18. 2023

The meeting began at 12:10 with Tim opening in prayer. Attending Mtr Darlene, Peggy Lefebvre, Tim French, Jennifer Frechette, Joanne Sims, Judy Joseph, Marilee Roth, Kris Veldheer, Barbara Ryan

A discussion of the book, "Walk in Love" by Scott Gunn, was led by Tim with Judy, Kris, and Barbara participating.

Peggy discussed finances. Pledges are right on target. We have \$700 in outreach. Trying to catch up on copier expense after spending most of yearly allowance of color copies for annual report. The fire suppression liquid must be replaced and will cost \$11,000; that will make operating budget a deface for year. The second quarter insurance, pension, diocese assessment along with the fire suppression will be paid tomorrow, \$20,000. Barbara moved, Judy seconded, to accept the treasurer's report, passed. The yearly audit will done July 15th.

The French Market was discussed. Jeannine Totzke will write up newspaper announcement and give to Candice to submit to the papers. Jeannine should form a committee this fall to help with planning the Market

Fall Fling: Linda Anderson wants to retire as organizer of the Fling; someone else needs to organize it. She will still sponsor at Chikaming Country Club as would Tim.

Marilee: Still needs roofing repaired and gutters cleaned.

Joanna: Asian Bittersweet is a very invasive plant that is in our flower gardens; she needs someone to help remove it. Barbara moved, Tim seconded, to take money from Bob Tibbles memorial garden fund to use to remove bittersweet.

We need to clean up the walking path in the triangle area as it is listed in the Chikaming Open Lands Trail Walk challenge. Joanne will work on it and Tim will help Saturday.

Tim moved, Joanne seconded, to accept all reports as emailed, passed.

Jeannine and Mary Emrick feel yellow flowers used on the altar are not showing to advantage. Mary volunteered to make a backdrop to hang behind flowers. It was decided not to do that as would distract from wood. Someone wants to donate to altar; it was suggested that new candlesticks be purchased.

The wardens, Tim and Marilee, meet every Tuesday with Mtr Darlene.

Mtr Darlene said she was proud that we sponsored Pride activities during gay pride month. The diocese sent Mtr Karen Kelly \$1000. We will ask the diocese to give the \$200. Bill Card spent.

New business: August 13 will be the kickoff for stewardship. We currently have 46 pledge units. September 10th will be the parish picnic at New Buffalo pavilion with the service and ingathering of the pledges. The stewardship letters will be sent out by August 1st.

We have been requested to allow a cell tower on top of the steeple; Marilee has seen photos of other churches with it. No decision was made.

Mention was made of two books considered too political: "I Never Thought of it That Way" by Monica Guzman and "Crucial Conversations" by James Grenny.

A discussion was held regarding a conference Mtr Darlene and Kris will attend along with an additional person from St. Paul's; it is \$900. for three people with an additional \$900 for each additional person. The conference is July 23 through 28th in Midland.

A discussion was held about do we want an Out Center at Mediator; no decision was made.

Barbara suggests putting collection plate at back of church instead of passing; three churches in two different dioceses do that that she attended. The advantage is to new comers it doesn't look like people aren't giving when put nothing in plate because they have withdrawal from bank account, give annually, etc. Some throw in a dollar but then it looks like that is their donation. Judy concerned that the space there is small. Mtr Darlene talked about taking bread and wine from the back of church to altar which was stopped at the beginning of COVID. Wardens will discuss at their meeting.

Barbara suggested she do a short presentation during announcements based on gun violence talk she and several others attended at St. Paul's. Based on that talk, she suggested an usher sit in hall outside sanctuary to see if anyone came who was a threat. She felt congregation should know the sheriff's suggestions of first run, second hide, third throw something, hymnal, to distract person. Wardens will discuss at their meeting

It was suggested that Jennifer's letter be attached to the minutes.

Mtr Darlene closed with prayer at 1:38 p.m.