

November 18, 2021 – 5:00 PM
Holy Faith Vestry
Youth Room, Conkey House
The Church of the Holy Faith

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Father Robin Dodge, Van Swift, Dan Green, Steven Berkshire, Chris Frenk, Leslea McCabe, Walter Sterling, Charles Rountree

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vann Bynum, Charles Chambers

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Deacon Lynn Finnegan

- **Call to Order**
The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Fr Robin who led the Vestry in an opening prayer.
- **Acceptance of the Agenda**
Van moved, and Steven seconded acceptance of the agenda as amended. *Carried unanimously.*
- **Disposition of the October 28, 2021 Vestry Minutes**
Steven moved, and Chris seconded the acceptance of the Minutes for the October 28th, 2021 Vestry meeting. *Carried unanimously.*
- **Bible Study**
Father Jim led the Vestry in Bible study on John 18:33-37.
- **Treasurer's Report – Steven Berkshire**
Steven expressed his gratitude that the congregation has remained financially committed to the Parish throughout the pandemic resulting in the current firm financial position. Offerings and other income for the month totaled \$110,066 which includes \$53,600 in prepayments of 2022 pledges. Operating expenses totaled \$82,409 resulting in an operating surplus of \$27,658. Netted with other income and other expenses, there is a \$5,556 surplus for the month and a deficit of \$(116,950) for the year-to-date. Contributions of \$55,111 for pledges and plate exceed October 2020 by 47%. Steven reminded the Vestry that the year-to-date deficit includes expenditures for capital projects, as well as Guild, Library, and Mission & Outreach disbursements, which will be funded by transfers from the endowment at year end. He also pointed out that he anticipates an increase in expenses during the Advent and Christmas season as we return to three worship services and expanded choirs.

At the end of October, the reconciled cash balance for Century Bank was \$210K and for First Citizens was \$240K for a total of \$450K. The cash balances of both accounts, as reported by the bank on November 17th was \$467,687. The endowed funds, held at Northern Trust, have recovered from the sharp market decline in September and report an October month end value of \$10,746,338. The investments have risen in value to \$10,967,953 as of November 17th.

The 2022 budget is being prepared and will be shared at the December meeting for review and discussion.

The Vestry accepted the October Financial Statements as recommended by the Finance Committee, unanimously.

- **Junior Warden's Report – Dan Green**

Dan presented a summary of 2021 projects completed and pending. \$271,879 was allocated for projects in 2021 and, as of November, \$255,062 has been expended or committed leaving a remaining balance of \$16,817. Additional costs to add fire alarms in the attic have increased the fire and alarm budget expenses by approximately \$3K. The City of Santa Fe fire marshal must now sign off on the project in order to proceed. Once approved, the project should be completed by the end of December.

Paul D'Arcy, the prior Junior Warden, contacted Fr Robin to update the Vestry on the status of the contested water bill. Scheduling a time to conduct the appeal has been complicated by the pandemic. At this time, a ZOOM call has been scheduled and Paul has indicated he is willing to participate if needed. The appeal is in response to a water bill presented in the Fall of 2020 that was vastly more than usual: Paul calculated that the amount of water supposedly used by Holy Faith during the period being appealed would fill 40 swimming pools.

- **Senior Warden's Report – Van Swift**

Van reported that response has been overwhelmingly positive to further reopening the Parish. She also reported that attendance at various groups, specifically the Women's Bible Study, has increased. Preparations continue for 'Quiet Day' and 'Women's Spirituality'. She concluded by saying 23 children attended the Halloween 'Trunk or Treat'.

- **Rector's Report – Father Robin Dodge**

Fr Robin also reported that plans to return to three Sunday services and expanded choirs has generated a great deal of excitement. At this time, there will not be an Adult Forum during December devoting the time between the 8:30 and 11:00 services to fellowship. Beginning in January, Fr Robin will lead a series of six to seven sessions on 'Welcome Back to Basics' which will be a refresher series on the liturgy and history of the Episcopal Church. It is hoped the series will be especially useful to new members who have joined during the pandemic.

Stewardship is going well: 82 pledges have been returned totaling commitments of \$423K. Stewardship season usually ends with 200 to 220 pledges. Plans are being made to reach to those who haven't yet returned a pledge. Fr. Robin also reported that a parishioner has generously offered to match any new pledges up to \$25,000: to date, seven new pledges have been received.

Plans are being developed to convene an advisory committee to help plan Fr Robin's upcoming sabbatical beginning in late April or early May. Fr. Robin indicated that a possible focus of the sabbatical might be a reflection on the impact of the Daily Office on a Parish.

Lastly, Fr. Robin reported that Advent begins November 28th and there is optimism the Parish will return to three services and an Adult Forum that day. Some health protocols will remain in place.

- **Deacon's Report – Deacon Lynn Finnegan**

Deacon Lynn reported she had worked with the Holy Faith participants at the Interfaith Shelter. 'Faith Family' training continues with 18-20 participating with plans to commission the participants at the 8:30 and 11:00 services on November 28th. She also mentioned that she has received interest in being a 'cultural ambassador' to Afghani refugees with training for this ministry to take place on December 2nd.

- **Other Business**

There being no further business, Van moved, and Leslea seconded adjournment. *Carried unanimously*. Fr. Robin the closed the meeting with prayer at 6:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Rountree