

Parish Board 6Minutes

6/3/19

Present: Michele David, Gene T-G (on zoom), Alice Mark, Stephen Pratt-Otto, Charles Sandmel, Dave Demerjian, Rev Lisa

Absent: Laura Hatfield, David Cave, Janet Britcher

We **lit the chalice** with "Blessing for the Journey" by Leslie Davenport.

We **checked in**. How was the board year for you?

We **approved the minutes** from May.

We discussed the **minister's report**.

Long conversation about paving the driveway and how to make that decision. We said this was a shared leadership decision that could be tackled next year. Plan to have board members (Stephen, Dave D) B&G, finance, welcoming, other interested parties, especially those with mobility issues. At this point can grade but the decision about paving is a bigger one about building use. Rev. Lisa recommends that Gene be part of this group.

We discussed having fall congregational meetings. Have to do bylaws work and also elect a moderator. We will reach out to Sue Andrews for potential dates. Nominating committee will have to nominate a moderator before then. Discussed early Sept for nominating then fall-winter for congregational meeting. Could take place instead of a board meeting after church on Sun.

Personnel committee scope was tabled until Janet was with us.

We **discussed organ**. Keith wants to make \$5000 repair to get organ to a usable state, \$1000 from music and \$4000 from B&G. Although B&G is free to release their own funds, Clint had asked PB whether we could approve the expense. There are a few problems that we want to unpack:

1. Governance- If B&G has a budget, what do they come to PB for input in and what do they approve without consultation? Is this an OK way to hold B&G budget?
2. Organ – we had a report last year that organ will need significant investment to make it a continuing asset. The repair work is really to get it to playable. There is a congregational question about whether the organ is an asset we want to invest in, compared to other things (windows, improvements to Dana so we can rent the space, other projects).

We **reached consensus** that B&G could release the money to repair the organ. We agreed that because B&G is free to spend the money without consultation that we did not have to reach a high level of consensus. We did not reach consensus at a high level with three people at a 4 (don't approve but won't block) 2 3's (low level of approval) and one 2 (approve). Rev Lisa will take this back to B&G.

In the meantime, we said shared leadership conversation about paving could also include questions like organ, stained glass, building renovations, etc. These appear to be about money but may actually be intractable questions about what we want the church to BE. May need some facilitation. Michele noted that we are not a church in crisis anymore and that now is the time to do some strategic thinking about

our building. The board will take this on next year. Deacons should be invited. Gene recommended we also have a money conversation before this shared leadership conversation which might help.

Charles gave a **treasurer's report**. In summary, although we have less revenue due to decreased pledging, our other income and expenses are close to budget. We likely won't have to draw as much out of the endowment as anticipated but will know more about that at end July.

Charles also did a walk through with the insurance agent to try to get better rates.

We discussed **hospitality**. Hospitality has been brought up multiple times during the budget meetings as a possible expense that we could cut and as a shared activity that builds community. We discussed piloting congregation-led hospitality Sept-Dec next year. We would do a signup genius to bring food and people can sign up if they feel so moved. We agreed that Parish Board would still host first hospitality of the church year.

We **reached consensus** at a moderate level that hospitality would now fall on the congregation to provide.

We **checked out**

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Consensus allowed us to disagree but maintained cohesion. We didn't feel there were winners and losers	We missed Laura Hatfield
Not in crisis mode but have big things to work on	Gene feels nervous about next year – there's a lot on her plate.
Everyone in the room had a voice	

We ended with our **usual prayer**.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Mark, Clerk