

ALL SAINTS' BEVERLY HILLS

Vestry Meeting – June 23, 2020 6:30pm

(minutes by Ted Dodd who arrived at 7pm)

Attendees via Zoom:

Clergy: The Reverend Janet Broderick

Vestry: Gary Roberts, Chris Cook, Susan Humphreville, Lisa Holguin, Bill Lincoln, Millie Hansen, Marissa Flaxbart, Kevin Yoder, Ted Dodd, Glynis Horton, Gerrie Maloof, Dennis McGuckian

Guests: Gerry Suenram, Brian Ide

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. Gary Roberts led the group in prayer. Marissa Flaxbart lead a study.

The Minutes from the May 26, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

Chris Cook gave a stewardship report. The committee is working on a job description for a director of stewardship and a consultant as there is a pivotal Fall campaign upcoming.

The Rector's Report

We are on the verge of hiring The Reverend Canon Nontombi (Naomi) Tutu, and the search committee reports that they are thrilled with her as a candidate for ASBH. Janet discussed ASBH's media ministries. She says that we are slowly coming to understand how to speak to people through media. This also is how we will organize justice work and outreach. The 10AM service has integrity through its video presentation, and there are no changes planned for that. She thanked God for years of wonderful, inspiring choir recordings. We are trying to think experimentally for AS2. The numbers of people attending/viewing has doubled from 150 to more than 300 views each week.

Regarding the church's response to racism and injustice: One of the ways we can address this is to create a real welcome for diverse people. She discussed the difference between welcome and hospitality. She also talked about the idea of raising a banner in front of ASBH, which she feels requires careful thought. Janet showed the Vestry a picture of a banner at Temple Sinai on Wilshire Blvd. "We stand with our black sisters and brothers." This raised to her the question of whether there are no black Jews, which she assumes is not what they want to imply. However, this ambiguity causes her to want to think carefully about messaging for ASBH.

She showed the Vestry some sample banners, including ones with quotes from Desmond Tutu, Mother Theresa, and W.E.B. DuBois. She said that we will choose one, and the Mother Theresa sign will be posted at Good Shepherd, too, to show unity among the churches. She also said that we are changing the corner sign at SM and Camden: to "join us virtually".

She discussed staffing issue generally. Her hope for ASBH is that loosening the reins on the congregation to step forward into positions of responsibility will encourage greater involvement in ministries. Her view is that staff facilitate the work of the lay ministers rather than doing the ministry, which is the

model that has been in place recently. She feels that there is a huge capacity and creativity in our congregation that remains untapped, and that this is critical for growing in faith and community.

The Media Group is exploding with creativity. She is setting a goal to attract 10,000 visitors to VIMEO. She is considering offering parishioners the opportunity to join Good Shepherd in feeding the homeless.

Brian Ide gave an update on the Media Ministry. The traditional service has been trending higher and there has been a significant jump in AS2 (more than doubled, to 304). Wednesday's Anglican Experiment class has had up to 85 attendees in the live session. Kevin Yoder suggested a quick survey to get a more accurate idea of who is watching various services on Vimeo versus Zoom versus Facebook.

Brian says the idea of the experimental service is to move beyond the "iPad on the tripod", and they may transition to pre-recorded services sometimes for AS2. There won't be any experimentation with the 10AM service, because it is intended to continue to feel as much as possible like the church service everyone knows and loves. We will film 6 weeks of music with Craig in advance of his planned summer vacation. People from 10AM and AS2 have been dialoguing about the services and, in response to this, we presently plan to keep Zoom live services in place at least every other week for AS2, in accord with the expressed desire for "in person" experiences as a support for a feeling of community.

Lisa said 100 agents at her agency watched the AS2 service and loved the sermon.

They are getting quotes for camera gear for the big church.

Financial Report by the Treasurer (Susan Humphreville)

Susan said the Financial Committee recommends hiring a new accounting firm to review ASBH's records in 2019. We are investigating a possible relationship with Harrington Group, which serves non-profits. A review is not as extensive as an audit; it does not pick up on internal controls. The cost of a review is \$7,500 versus \$16,500 for a full audit.

The Benevolence Fund (Kevin Yoder)

So far, \$65,000 has been donated and \$18,000 has been dispersed. There have been roughly 12 applications. Two applications are from outside the parish. The question is whether we only serve parishioners. No decision has been made yet, and the Vestry has been asked to consider this question. We may want to keep some reserves in place for increasing need that we anticipate will emerge this summer among our parishioners.

Janet wanted to know whether the people receiving grants felt they have been ministered to.

Regarding the negotiation with Naomi: there would be no housing money in her deal, and there is a plan to refurbish the "birdhouse".

Gerry discussed highlights from the new ASBH Employment Manual.

The Vestry Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00pm and moved into Executive Session.

Gerry Suenram stayed for Executive Session.