

## St. James' Episcopal Church

2584 Main St. Glastonbury, CT

### August Vestry Meeting

Minutes August 10, 2022

In attendance via Zoom: Deb O'Donnell, Mitchell Chester, Joyce Reynolds, Don Hamer, Valerie Huestis, Don Gardner, Ralph Urban, Bob Duggar, Alison Banker, Rich Connell. Becky Lee joined late. Opening prayer by the Rev. Don Hamer

#### Check-in:

Four (4) new families with children have been attending this summer. Sunday morning in-person attendance has been good over the summer. Deb's son honored at a Yard Goats game that Alison Banker attended.

#### Guest:

Valerie Huestis attended the meeting to present the following ideas: Find "Outreach" needs (via electronic or print media, word of mouth) and host monthly sessions to address needs, (e.g., downsizing, estate planning, bereavement issues, mental health, etc). "We are a caring faith community, let's prove it." Meetings could be hosted in Parish Hall. Celtic Vespers as a "break" from formal stuff would be fun.

#### Vestry Meeting Minutes

...had not been reviewed from previous meetings, therefore a vote to accept was not taken. Joyce did provide minor edits.

Treasurer's Report: The church is preparing for the annual audit. Balance sheet review "revealed" that Joining Jesus accounts need reconciling. Treasurers report was reviewed for July only, no June report was presented. Ralph moved to accept the July report as "preliminary report", Rich 2<sup>nd</sup>, the motion was approved.

#### Compensation for Priest Associate, the Reverend Don Hamer

Compensation for Sunday Worship and work in the church office to prepare weekly worship and attend to Pastoral Care needs will be paid to him as an independent contractor with a form 1099 for tax purposes. Don H. had discussed this with Rev. Matthew Handi of ECCT and this arrangement is considered acceptable. This information was circulated with Vestry

in a July 20<sup>th</sup> email and voted to accept by Vestry at that time. Ralph moved to ratify the previous electronic vote. Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>, the motion was approved.

### St. Luke's, South Glastonbury

The Rev. Matt Handi, part-time-rector at St. Luke's met with Deb and Mitchell at Daybreak Café in July. The meeting was intended to explore ways the two churches could join for periodic services, Sunday School (Zoom and/or in-person), or Youth Group activities. Ideas proposed included for services to be held for both sets of congregants at St. Luke's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday or at St. James on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Matt offered that he could supply clergy to St. James on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday when St. James does not have a scheduled rector. Deb offered that John O'Donnell could conduct a morning prayer at St. Luke's on given Sundays when that parish does not have a scheduled rector. Other ideas included combined Vestry dinner.

### Discussion for Fall, 2022

- Alison proposed a Sunday School kick-off party or ice cream social after church in September.
- There was a discussion about the invitation from St. Mark's Lutheran for a picnic between the two parishes on 10-9-22 at JB Williams Park. It was agreed that discussions are needed before St. James elects to participate.
- Safe Church training is needed for many. This can be accomplished through the ECCT via Zoom. Registration can be made on the ECCT website.
- Gun Violence Visual Witness/demonstration at St. James's West Hartford was viewed by members of the Vestry. There was discussion to evaluate whether St. James Glastonbury wants the display for a month. The display consists of t-shirts on crosses; one for each victim of gun violence in Connecticut.
- The parish directory will be available again through the St. James' web-page in Autumn. Vestry decided that book reading and text reviews during Vestry meetings are not planned for the foreseeable future.
- Don Hamer opined that each monthly Vestry meeting does not have to go down the same rote agenda. Meetings can be shortened if we customize the agenda and address only pertinent issues. He will share his successful format used at Trinity Hartford in the coming weeks.

*The Closing Prayer was shared by the Rev. Don Hamer.*

Next meeting is 9-7-22, in-person, in the church.

*Submitted by Mitchell Chester, Junior Warden*