

## **Minutes of the Vestry Meeting, September 8, 2022**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with a prayer.

### **Discussion/Decision:**

#### **Rector's Report:**

The government has approved an up front payment of 30% of the costs of solar installation for non-profit organizations. The demand for solar is increasing which may drive up the cost in the future. The current provider that we have been working closely with is now trying to change the plans from a canopy installation to a roof installation.

#### **Warden's Report:**

Still working on finding individuals to run for the Vestry next year. The sign-up option on the website has been consolidated to include ushers, greeters, coffee hour hosts and children's chapel leaders. The Ministry Fair and picnic are on September 18.

#### **Worship Schedule for the Program Year:**

There was lengthy discussion about having two services when the Program Year starts. There were many pros and cons addressed during the discussion. Jon+ and Ann+ have no problem with having two services on Sunday. The problem is the staffing of all other functions associated with the service. Right now there is a problem with volunteers for usher, children's chapel leader, and greeters. There are fewer acolytes now than in the past. Now that services are being live streamed, there is a need for an AV person at each service. Historically, when attendance is below 50%, attendance tends to drop even more; when attendance is above 80%, attendance tends to drop. Right now our attendance is around 55%. It was decided that when attendance starts to approach 80%, two services will be initiated.

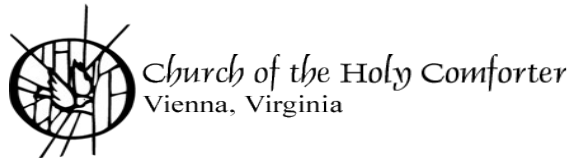
#### **Capital Campaign:**

We have 94% of our goal of 125 households pledging. We have 96% of our goal of \$1,250,000. The campaign will end September 15. Pledges will be accepted after that date. After some discussion about the money already collected, there was a motion to pay part of the loan. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Cash on hand is good. Pledge receipts for the month of August were over budget and loose checks were under budget. Cash receipts were over budget. Expenses were over budget. Net income for the month was a negative. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's reports for the month of August. It was seconded and approved.

#### **Standing Committees and Program Updates:**



**Fellowship:** There is a need for coffee hour hosts. The parish picnic is September 18. There is a need for help to clean up. Make sure that your event is placed on the church calendar. Thanks to Suzie for the joint ‘Time to sign up’.

**Stewardship:** The Capital Campaign is nearing the end. With the current pledges, the debt can be paid off and at least one of the three remaining projects can be completed. A third project, depending on the final cost estimate, could also be completed. There was discussion about priority of project completion and how it will be addressed to the congregation. While the money is going to be collected over a three year period, the church can’t wait three years to start the projects. Planning for the annual operating capital campaign has started.

**Communications:** The full parish calendar is now on the website.

**Building and Grounds:** The boiler maintenance project has incurred some additional expenses. Tom Gadell is going to get the contractor who is replacing the columbarium step with a ramp to review the project to make sure it is ADA compliant. The burned out street lights in the parking lot have been replaced. A sample door number was placed outside the front door. The sheep are returning October 1. Margaret Bain has started a once a month campus work day. It will be a Saturday for ½ day. The temporary fence near the Ministry Center will be replaced with a split rail fence. Replacing the HVAC that services the sanctuary will cost about \$100,000. It should be replaced with a heat pump so that the natural gas furnace can be eliminated. However, heat pumps perform poorly during cold weather. In order to reach net zero by 2045, the natural gas heating system needs to be eliminated. Randy McGuire installed a new LAN access point in McGill Hall. A new intermediate switch was installed in the Sexton’s closet downstairs. Linda Khan will coordinate with the church office about initiating the pilot composting project.

**Outreach:** The CROP walk is October 2. Holy Comforter is hosting a water station.

**Newcomers:** Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> after the 9:30 service, there will be a Welcome Brunch for newcomers who are considered all those who have joined us since the beginning of January 2020. The Vestry has been invited to attend in addition to the Newcomer Committee who will be acting as hosts. Once the committee has a sense of how many Newcomers will be attending, further Ministry heads will be invited to attend to help answer questions.

**Preschool/Youth/IONA Fund:** The Preschool is down one Kindergarten teacher.

**VPOM:** One sympathy card was sent.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the August meeting with one minor correction. It was seconded and approved.



*Church of the Holy Comforter*  
Vienna, Virginia

**The meeting ended at 8:50 pm with the Lord's Prayer.**

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Fitzsimmons  
Register