There was a meeting of the vestry of Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church, Chestnut Hill, on the above date at 7 p.m. in Dixon House.

There were present Ruth Desiderio, rector’s warden, presiding; Interim Rector the Rev. Canon Albert J. Ogle, and Anibal Aponte-Boyd, Lisa Budd, Chip Butler, Cheyenne DeMulder, Mark Duckett, Clark Groome, Chuck Lower, Steve Pearson, Kristen Poole, Louise Thompson, and Hugh Williamson.

Tim Albert, John Kimberly, Tabitha Omen, and Amanda Scates-Preisinger were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

I. Interim Rector Albert Ogle opened the meeting with a prayer.

II. The Listening Hearts Guidelines were read.

III. The secretary reported that an updated vestry contact list would be attached to these minutes.

IV. The minutes of the May 19, 2019 vestry meeting were approved unanimously.

V. The vestry agreed that in the future the “Rite of the Floor” – an opportunity for parishioners to come to the vestry with questions, ideas, concerns – be promoted more widely.

VI. Rector’s Warden Ruth Desiderio asked the vestry members for any reactions to and feedback about the recent town hall with Canon Arlette Benoit Joseph. All the feedback was positive, with some concern expressed about the lack of questions about the process the parish is in as we search for our new rector. It was also noted that it is critical to communicate regularly and openly with the parish about what’s happening.

The town hall was a good first step and gave people the opportunity to talk about the relationship between St. Paul’s and the diocese; about the nature of the interim period; and about the nature of transition, the possibilities and the timeline.

VII. The next step in the process is, Ruth said, to hire a consultant. Before we do that we have to figure out exactly what we need and then interview some potential candidates. This will take place over the next few weeks.
VIII. Albert reported on his first two weeks:

- It has been an extraordinary two weeks, he said – preparing for a baptism, two funeral preparations including some drama around the funeral of a former parishioner who had requested a former priest preach. Albert met with the family and all is well. “As we go through the transition there will be all sorts of curveballs that will be thrown our way. How do we lead (as a vestry) by example of non-anxious presence?”

There was a “wonderful renewal of wedding vows” and some pastoral duties he described as “wonderful connections with people doing great things around here.”

- His first impressions are amazing. “Not only are we facing the complexity of a search but we also have the complexity of significant renovations happening at the same time.” We discussed an initial timeline and use of other facilities that included part of the Rectory.

- Albert talked about how short-staffed we are, given the complexity of different lay-led ministries at St Paul’s, and the need for a strong central office where the ministries can be quilted together and coordinated. There is much to be learned and explored in the weeks and months ahead.

- ”God has really blessed this place,” Albert said. “You have lots of resources and gifts and skills that will bless so many. It’s good – and I’m having fun with it.”

Kristen Poole noted that the calendar has often been less than accurate. Her concerns about communications in general were shared by many of the vestry members present.

Albert also talked about the possibility of engaging an assistant priest. This will be explored further with the Coordinating Committee and the vestry.

IX. Accounting Warden Anibal Aponte-Boyd reported that the finances are in good shape. He hopes to develop a simpler report form for reporting to the vestry.

It was noted that in 2019 the heating bill and the snow removal fee were higher than expected. He urged the parish to make sure the heating system is operating properly.

The Finance Committee is beginning to work on the 2020 budget. It is unclear at the moment who makes the decisions about and who’s responsible for forming the budget. Hopefully this year’s deficit of $33,000 will actually be about $27,000.

All in all, Anibal said, the balance sheet looks healthy.
X. Property Chairman Mark Duckett asked the vestry to act on two matters:

1. The original Aegis proposal for project management was figured on only some of the projects for which the capital campaign money was raised. The vestry asked that this cover all the projects. The new proposal has been made. It increased the original cost from $47,850 to $69,700 – a maximum price. We have the right to cancel our relationship with seven days’ notice.

   Upon a motion duly seconded, the new contract was approved without dissent.

2. Once the work begins, there will be projects that need us to spend money. Mark suggested that the vestry approve the expenditure of $50,000 so that the property committee can get underway. When the expenditures have reached $50,000 they will, Mark said, “come back and give you an accounting of what that was and ask for a reauthorization” for another $50,000. This was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

   The sewer project is moving ahead. Our neighbor has agreed to giving us an easement in exchange for our attaching his house to the sewer.

   All the projects should be completed by Christmas, 2020.

   Albert stated that the organ needs significant work. Music Director Andy Kotylo is working on what’s needed and will report to the vestry at our September meeting.

   The rectory also needs some work. Neither one of these is covered by the capital campaign.

XI. The secretary will chair a committee to look at the bylaws so that we can update where necessary. Serving with him are Albert, Ruth, Stewart Graham, and Chesley Lightsey.

XII. Cheyenne DeMulder outlined the plans for Associate Rector Joseph Wolyniak’s final Sunday, July 7. There will be a barbecue after the 10:30 service. The church will supply burgers, hot dogs, and veggie dogs. Members of the parish will be asked to bring salads, veggies, and desserts.

   The vestry agreed that a purse should be established for the Wolyniaks.

XIII. Anibal reminded the officers that they need to fill out the paperwork so they can sign checks. He also noted that a corporate resolution for the Vanguard Funds will be needed.
XIV. The vestry unanimously passed the following resolution about that portion of Canon Ogle’s compensation that will be designated as a housing allowance:

WHEREAS The Rev. Canon Albert J. Ogle is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Church of St. Paul’s Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, which does not provide a residence for him and his family; the Vestry of St. Paul’s resolves that of the total annual compensation of approximately $112,000 to be paid to The Rev. Canon Albert J. Ogle during the year 2019, $60,000 is to be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.

XV. The next meeting of the vestry will be Monday, September 16 at 7 p.m. in Dixon House.

XVI. Following Albert’s closing prayer, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark Groome
Secretary