There was a Zoom meeting of the Vestry of Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church, Chestnut Hill, on the above date at 7 p.m.

There were present Ruth Desiderio, Rector’s Warden, presiding; also Interim Rector Albert J. Ogle, Assistant Rector Daniel J. Kline, and Vestry members Lisa Budd, Chip Butler, Steve Camp-Landis, Cheyenne DeMulder, Mark Duckett, Clark Groome, John Kimberly, George McNeely, Steve Pearson, Kristen Poole, Louise Thompson, and Hugh Williamson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

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

II. The Listening Hearts Guidelines were read.

III. The minutes of the May 17, 2020 Vestry meeting were approved unanimously.

IV. The minutes of the June 15, 2020 Vestry meeting were approved unanimously.

V. The Vestry was in executive session from 7:11 p.m. until 9:03 p.m.

VI. Rector’s Warden Ruth Desiderio proposed that the Vestry meet next Monday, June 29, at 7 p.m. on Zoom to focus on the search. The vestry agreed.

VII. Accounting Warden Steve Camp-Landis reported that there’s nothing unexpected in the May financial report. So far we’re spending less than we did last year and we’re receiving more in the general fund, which is “a very good sign.”

Steve also reported that the Finance Committee, which is meeting tomorrow night (June 23), is going to help oversee the organ project to make clear that we can keep the costs within the $2 million given for the work, He’ll keep the Vestry updated.

VIII. Property Committee Chairman Mark Duckett asked the Vestry to approve a $280,000 expenditure from the Capital Campaign Fund for the sewer project. His motion, duly seconded, was passed unanimously.

Mark also reported that the recent examination of the flèche showed it to be in excellent condition, saving $78,000 that can be used elsewhere in the construction project.

IX. Stewardship Chairman George McNeely asked the Vestry to approve the hiring of stewardship consultant Rick Felton for six months at $500 per month. After taking into account the $700 stewardship budget and a $1,000 gift, the total cost to the parish will
be $1,300 which the Accounting Warden said could be found by reducing some small expenditures in the budget.

Interim Rector Albert Ogle said that Rick Felton had said to him, “St. Paul’s is in a unique position to put your best foot forward before you call a new rector.”

The approval to hire Rick Felton for six months at $500 per month ($1,700 of which will be paid from the stewardship budget and a $1,000 gift) was moved, seconded, and passed without dissent.

George said that he had sent to the Vestry a chart entitled “Roadmap: 2021 Stewardship Campaign” that outlines the tasks ahead beginning in July. It lists what we need to do and when we need to do it.

X. Mark Duckett proposed the 2020-2021 Property Committee for Vestry consent. Mark will chair the group that consists of Tim Albert, Pam Bracey, Joe Fafara, John Faggoti, John Grigger, Alix Jones, Barbie Kimberly, Mike Latini, George McNeely, Ned Smith, and John Zimmermann along with Canon Albert Ogle, Virginia Emlen, and Jim Everts from the clergy and staff. The Vestry approved the committee.

XI. George McNeely proposed the 2020-2021 Stewardship Committee for Vestry consent. George will chair the group that consists of Pam Bracey, Lisa Budd, Chip Butler, Sandy Dillon, Melissa Fikioris, Janice Fiore, Clark Groome, Richard Kolb, Steve Pearson, Elizabeth Starrantino, and Pat Voigt. The Vestry approved the committee.

XII. Steve Camp-Landis reported that he was still working on enlisting a couple of new members to serve on the Finance Committee. He’ll report to the Vestry for approval when he’s got the full committee assembled.

XIII. Albert asked for approval of a contract with Fred Shequine of Business Technology Consulting to help us update, clean, and simplify the parish website. The website, Albert and others noted, will be an Important resource for those applying to be our next rector. Therefore, it should be in the best, most attractive, and most navigable shape possible.

Fred Shequine’s costs for the project, which needs to be dealt with as soon as possible, would be $2,000.

After an intense discussion about the process for funding the work, the proposal was tabled.

XIV. Albert then reviewed the process for St. Paul’s to reopen:

• The bishop wants a decision about what our initial plans are for reopening for public worship.

• We will respect the three services and what their constituents want.
• We will have to open on a relatively small scale.

• It is the initial thought that the 8 a.m. service will be held on Saturday mornings; the 9 a.m. will be held outside, weather permitting, and, if not, either in the Parish Hall if it’s available or, perhaps, cancelled for the day; the 11 a.m. service will be held in the church with a cantor. All three services initially will be limited to 25 or fewer and people will have to register in advance.

• The 11 a.m. service will be streamed live.

• Albert reported that it is very likely that many will not be able or willing to return to the church until there is treatment or a vaccine for COVID-19.

• While it is hoped that we can begin the return to in-person worship by mid-July, if there’s a COVID-19 upswing we may have to shut down again.
• Details of the plan may change as we prepare to begin reopening.

• Services will vary between Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist.

• Hugh Williamson noted that it is safer to meet outside. He’s done a lot of research on other parishes and feels that we need to be very careful going forward.

• The parish will be cleaned and disinfected before all services and masks will be required, as will gloves for Eucharists where only the bread will be distributed.

After discussion, the proposal for moving forward was moved, seconded, and passed with one abstention.

XV. The next meeting of the Vestry will be on Monday, June 29, 2020, at 7 p.m.

XVI. Following Albert’s closing prayer, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark Groome
Secretary