SAINT PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
July 7, 2020

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, and Vestry members 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 Rev. Barbara Abbott, St. Paul’s consultant, and John Rollins, Profile Chairman, were the Vestry’s guests.

Lisa Budd was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

II. Rector’s Warden Ruth Desiderio welcomed Search Consultant Barbara Abbott and Profile Chairman John Rollins to the meeting.

III. The minutes of the June 29, 2020 Vestry meeting were approved unanimously.

IV. John Rollins reported on the profile’s status:

• The parish survey has been completed. The assessment analysis of the results was circulated to the parish prior to the Parish’s May 17 Annual Meeting.

• The parish profile writing team has created a first draft using the 2005 Parish Profile as a template.

• Zoom Community Conversations (a/k/a Town Halls) are scheduled for Sunday, July 19, noon – 1:30 p.m.; Monday June 20, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 25, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.; and Sunday, July 26 – 1:30 p.m. An additional date could be added if needed.

  Each conversation will have a Vestry host and a facilitator. The facilitators are Cheyenne DeMulder, John Kimberly, Dick Kolb, and Carroll Sheppard. The Vestry hosts will be designated soon.

• John R. reported that five areas of work remain before we can say that the profile “is ready for prime time:”

  1. Community Conversations.
2. Complete the final draft of the document.
3. Office of Transition Ministry (OTM) responses to the OTM questions assigned and answered.
4. Synchronizing of Profile and OTM answers.
5. Review and sign off.

V. Ruth encouraged as many Vestry members who are able to attend the town halls with at least one to attend all four along with Ruth, Barbara, and John R. The survey feedback and the financial education material again will be sent to the parish prior to the Town Halls.

VI. There are three goals for these events:

• Identifying areas of divergence and convergence.

• If there are divergent points of view we don’t want to try to resolve them but rather understand them so they can be included in the document.

• To have participants hear in the parish’s own voice how we describe our strengths and areas for improvement and what the attributes of our next rector should be.

At the end of the conversations we’re going to need to aggregate what we’ve learned for two purposes:

• Provide updated input to the parish profile draft.

• Provide input for further Vestry discussion.

VII. Barbara Abbott asked if people might have responded differently to the survey if they had had the financial information first.

She also noted the following:

• The OTM questions need to be reviewed by a candidate before an interview. They often take the candidate deeper than the profile, to areas the profile might overlook, particularly on conflict and openness to change. She suggested the questions be assigned to Vestry teams.

• As we proceed, editing rights should be limited to a very few. She noted the distribution procedure outlined in the survey feedback document that “once results of these community conversations have been collected and summarized, they will be provided to the writing team for inclusion in the draft Profile. That draft will be reviewed by the Vestry, and shared with the parish for comment before being submitted for Diocesan review. Once approved the profile will be ready for handoff to the search committee.”
VIII. It is hoped that the document will be completed by mid- to late August. It was also emphasized that while comments will be welcome after the Profile is completed, it will not be able to be “red penciled” by dozens of people.

IX. Based on the survey and feedback, Barbara came up with a list of as many as 15 characteristics/skills that St. Paul’s might be seeking in a new rector. That’s about three times too many. We need to know what our needs are as we work with Carrie Schofield-Broadbent on our core values.

Barbara said we should all be listening for direction about what St. Paul’s ministry goals are. “This is not to say there won’t be a list of challenges and divergences but there should emerge some specific ministry goals.

X. The next meeting of the Vestry will be on Zoom on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at 7 p.m. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent will join us.

XI. Following Albert’s closing prayer, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark Groome
Secretary