

Meeting with Reverend Canon Joann Saylor January 16, 2022

The Meeting was opened with prayer led by Reverend Canon Joann Saylor.

Present at the meeting were: Reverend Canon Joann Saylor; Susan Dunn, Senior Warden; Rip Howell, Junior Warden; Haynes Dunn, Vestry Member; Sharon Willingham, Vestry Clerk; Jim Deslatte, Co-Treasurer; Parish members: Greg Williams, Lee Sanders, Beverly Ross, Olive Krell, Eleanore & Herb Wuthrich, Lynn Koepp, Sandy Tompkins, Celia Patterson, Byron Hambrick, Bobby & Carol Radler, and Ashley Tompkins.

Reverend Saylor asked for any comments or information about what we were doing.

- Susan Dunn reported that we were having a Priest every other Sunday with communion and Morning Prayer on the other Sundays.
- Sharon Willingham reported that the Stewardship Campaign went well.
- Haynes Dunn reported that things seemed calmer in one direction as we are not so divided with so many projects. Maintenance issues are not as dire as last year.
- Beverly Ross agreed that things were calmer and she was anticipating what would come from this meeting. She feels we are somewhat in limbo regarding the Grief Share Program. Decisions need to be made on when to start the program again.
- Jim Deslatte reported that the 2022 Budget will be in the black this year. We are all looking hard at how we spend money. He also reported that Roy Eby left us \$20,000 in his will.
- Susan said we do keep in touch with the homebound and send out newsletters.

Reverend Saylor said that our Spirit is Very positive and asked what we hope to accomplish today. **Haynes said he wanted to know our options for the future.**

The answer was:

- **Become a Mission if you can't afford a full-time priest. You can use a Supply Priest or Interim Priest until you can get your funds up.**

Jim Deslatte said that a full time Priest is not feasible due to the cost.

Reverend Saylor reported that most of the work for a church is done by lay people, Priests are essential for Communion services and pastoral care.

Options are:

- Hire a priest for Pastoral care and services when you need them (weekly, bi-monthly, monthly)
- Bi-Vocational Priests typically work 10 hours a week. Other churches do 10 hours a week for interim priests

As of February 1st, the Diocese will have a new employee, Thomas Morris, who has been a Rector, interim rector, and has done Mission reimagining work and worked with other congregations in change. His job will be working with churches in flux, we will be his first project.

He will be walking a journey with us to decide what we do from here. Walk slowly and work with God's hand. Thomas will listen, ask questions, and tell us what the diocese has to offer. We should focus on the abundance of what God gives us and appreciate developing the future. We should try things for a few months and then decide how it is working; if it doesn't work, then change. As we continue with the process don't hold on too tightly, listen to each other for God's will on decisions. Trust each other, give and take and have each other's back.

For Pastoral Care, we could offer to and of the 4 Supply Priests that have been doing services for us. We can prearrange for them to preach and do hospital visits, etc. for a set amount.

Reverend Canon Saylor is committing Thomas Morris to come once a month for 6 months to preach and have a meeting with Congregation or Vestry afterwards.
We will make a donation to discretionary fund or charity.

Haynes asked if we became a Mission will the Diocese help with maintenance.
Rev. Saylor said there are funds available (but not a lot) to Mission Churches.

Jim Deslatte reported that from 1997 to 2022 we lost 38 members.

Rip noted that we are an Aging Congregation and facilities.

Reverend Saylor said that she recently preached a sermon on Congregations needing to die. What we do is let go of and resurrect as what we want to be. We make decisions!
The World still needs church.

The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.