**St. Monica’s Episcopal Church**

Vestry Meeting for November 15, 2018

Present: The Very Rev. Eric Cooter, Rector; Matt Devlin, Senior Warden; Tom Cote, Junior Warden; Janet Ross, Treasurer; Doug Ball, Clerk of Vestry; Michael Kennedy; Sarah Meador; Betsy Smith; Stuart Wisnom.

Absent: Carol Hedman (excused)

**Call to Order**

* Fr. Eric called the meeting to order and started with prayer.
* The Vestry read through the Vestry Covenant before we started our discussions.
* Fr. Eric led a “teaching moment” on Brene Brown’s book *Dare to Lead*

**Approval of Minutes**

* Janet moved, Betsy seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting as amended. Motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Janet presented the report for October. Doug moved, Matt seconded the motion to accept the report. Motion passed.

**Reports and Information**

* Rector’s Report
* Fr. Eric drew our specific attention to three items in his report.
	+ Linda Flores, Parish Administrator requires more uninterrupted time to focus on project/task management. Linda’s office door remain closed while volunteer office ministers are covering the front desk
	+ The altar configuration will be changed as a test during Advent and Christmas to allow more seating capacity during the holiday season. Feedback on this arrangement can be offered when Epiphany season begins.
	+ Fr. Eric announced that the Bishop has appointed him to serve as the Dean of the Naples Deanery beginning Nov. 20, 2018.
	+ Fr. Eric was elected to serve on Diocesan Standing Committee and thus, he will be out of the office on the third Tuesday of each month attending the meeting at the diocese.
* Senior Warden’s Report
	+ Matt suggested that the food left over from the Stewardship dinner be distributed to organizations that can use it to feed the hungry at this Thanksgiving time. Vestry agreed with this proposal.
* Junior Warden’s Report
	+ Tom brought up the issue of security during services in the church. Discussion ensued as to various ways to enhance security. It was agreed that education of the worshiping parishioners is of utmost value. There will be further discussion on this issue, which both Matt and Tom will oversee.
	+ Tom moved to temporarily suspend the “blue cup campaign” until the New Year after pledge/budget time are over.
* Evangelism Commission
	+ Sarah offered a thorough report on her work with newcomers.
	+ At the present time, the church has 45 new people who are either in process of or have completed their transition to become members of St. Monica’s.
	+ At the second Circle of Friends—Newcomers Gathering at the rector’s home on Nov. 4th, 14 newcomers attended and have the intention of joining the church.
* Other Commission Chairs (as filed)

**Discussions**

* Pumpkin Patch 2018 was a success. It netted (after expense) a profit of $4166.58. Having the activity for only two weeks (three weekends) eased the problem of recruiting folks to work the patch. By a prior Vestry resolution the allocation of these funds went to the operating budget, Capital reserve, Youth, Music, and Outreach.
* For the Stewardship Commission, approximately 99 parishioners and guests attended the Stewardship Dinner on October 26th; the food was excellent, the music beautiful, and the talk on tithing “food for thought” by Canon Chris Gray. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and many remained to help with the cleaning up. The rector’s Stewardship letter went along with the pledge cards shortly thereafter, and the greater percentage of pledge cards came in on All Saints weekend. We have continued to send the handwritten thank-you notes to each person as the pledge card arrives. Letters were sent out reminding some parishioners that pledge cards should come in in order for the Finance Committee to plan a budget for 2019.
* The Treasurer gave a presentation about the budget process and our progress to date.
* Fr. Eric introduced several items for our consideration: his Vision Document; Vestry Ministry Descriptions to be dealt with at the December Vestry meeting; Annual Meeting preparation: Commission reports are due by Jan.15, 2019, and setting up the Nominating Committee for the Vestry elections.

**Resolutions**

* Janet moved, Matt seconded the motion to utilize the Parish Discretionary Fund, to help local outreach efforts that come to our attention, as opposed to the prior practice of designating specific ministries each month. As required by Episcopal Church Canon, the vestry designated that the Open Plate offering on the second Sunday of the month will go to the Discretionary Fund. Motion passed.
* (Janet moved to extend the time for the Vestry meeting by 10 minutes; motion passed.)
* Janet moved, Stuart seconded the motion that the TD Ameritrade account under the prior rector’s signatory still exists; if so, the current rector, senior warden, and treasurer will become the signatories. If not in existence, an account could be established with Sun Trust. Motion passed.
* With no more items for discussion, Matt moved, Michael seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting; motion passed. Fr. Eric ended the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Ball, Clerk of Vestry