

Holy Spirit Vestry Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Members present via Zoom: John Crowley, Mark Dvarishkis, Kent Watson, Jeff Serviss, Clem Work, Mary Beth Jourdonnais, Terri Grotzinger, Warren Gartner, Torian Donohoe, Caitlin Sherman.

- 1) Opening prayer led by Clem
- 2) Consent agenda
 - a. **Motion to approve the entire consent agenda, seconded, approved.**
- 3) No correspondence/concerns from parishioners
- 4) Memorial Board report
 - a. The requests for proposals from new financial advisors will be going out soon
 - b. \$26,000 has been transferred from the Memorial Board to the Vestry, which will have further discussions on how to allocate those funds.
- 5) Financial report
 - a. Still looking very good
 - b. Income, including plate offerings and pledges, are over budget and expenses are under budget.
 - i. The annual budget projected a ~\$20,000 deficit, but is actually a ~\$40,000 surplus
 - c. Push Pay had guaranteed that our giving would increase by 10% or they would waive fees. Is this something to investigate? Mark will discuss with Judy.
 - d. **Motion to approve the financial report, seconded, approved.**
- 6) Old business
 - a. Rio Grande Border Ministry
 - i. The projected cost for the pilgrimage is ~\$850 out of pocket and efforts are being made to find possible sources of financial aid to help those that would need it. Informational articles are being printed in the Diocesan newsletter and the Paraclete. At least 8 people have already expressed a serious interest in going.
 - ii. The current plan is to send James to document the trip.
 - iii. Warren will work on a write up requesting donations.
 1. Donating could be a way for people to participate even if they cannot go on the trip.
 - iv. Clem will investigate possible Diocesan funds that could be available.
 - b. Properties
 - i. Concerns have been raised about Hellgate students on the church's fire escape during lunch time. Jeff will get a "private property, no trespassing" sign hung and Terri will reach out to Hellgate's SRO.
 - ii. Jeff has an appointment scheduled for next Wednesday with Montana Security to discuss the fire alarm system.
 - iii. We are still waiting for Five Valley Restoration's report and projection of work after their walkthrough.

- iv. John Hess has been working on the window and door frames and is doing an outstanding job.
 - v. The bricks have not been sealed yet but hopefully could be within Five Valley's scope of work.
 - c. Solar panels
 - i. Installation will begin the week of October 28th. There are questions about if they will be able to leave their lift on site that will be addressed then. NWE will then have to install a new meter and inspect the installation.
 - d. Nominating committee
 - i. A list of names has been submitted and Terri will discuss it with Clem and Jeff as wardens.
 - e. Diocesan Convention Planning
 - i. The convention is scheduled for September 20-October 1, 2022.
 - ii. We have secured conference space and 40 rooms at the Holiday Inn, 37 rooms at Stone Creek, and 30 rooms at La Quinta for that weekend.
 - iii. More people, both on the Vestry and not, are needed to volunteer for planning the convention.
 - f. Master Plan
 - i. The first meeting for the planning committee will take place next Wednesday at 6 pm via Zoom.
- 7) New business
- a. Information on the resolutions passed at the Diocesan Convention will be made available soon.
 - b. The budgeting process for 2022 is just getting started.
 - c. Dorcie brought up to the Social Concerns Committee that we need to revitalize specifying plate offerings for specific causes as is required in the Canon of the Episcopal Church.
 - i. Could we specify one Sunday a month to have plate offerings going to a specific charity or organization and have that group make a presentation?
 - ii. Social Concerns Committee could organize and invite parishioners to suggest organizations.
 - iii. **Motion to designate one Sunday a month to have a special plate offering for charity in accordance with Title III, Canon 9, Section 6(b6) of the Constitutions and Canons of the Episcopal Church. Seconded and approved.**
 - d. We have not received the report for the congregation vitality assessment.
 - e. The Stewardship Committee is exploring a hybrid way of reaching people. They have sent out postcards and a letter will soon follow. They are designed to celebrate how generous people have been and have a very positive message of hope.
 - i. Kirk did a great job with the design.
 - f. Terri is working on setting up a time with Jake to do an on-site meeting for follow up.
 - i. Are we going to need to hire a new staff person and/or increase the budget for media and outreach? James is on board to continue but will need volunteers to be trained up on the system as well.

- ii. This is going to be a massive change and growing pains are to be expected.
- 8) The Fall Festival is this Saturday from 10-2 outside in the Church courtyard
 - a. The Vestry is expected to assist in cleaning up.
- 9) Next meeting is November 10th at 5:30 pm via Zoom
 - a. Terri is open to discussing meetings in person but only when it is safe to do so.

Respectfully submitted

Caitlin Sherman
Clerk of the Vestry

October Rector's Report to Vestry

No report this month.

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger
Rector

October Assistant Priest's Report to Vestry

Spiritual Formation: Met with the Native American Task Force to determine goals and direction of the group, made a plan for episodic meetings as needed. Identified windows of opportunity for learning about the history of Native Americans in the Missoula Valley. Attended the Social Concerns Committee meeting for coordination and communication purposes. Supported the Creation Care Ministry by following up on information requests and setting up their September zoom call. Attended the borderlands dinner and helped with set up. Met with Spiritual Formation Committee to make final preparations for the spiritual type of survey. Had two practice sessions for the spiritual type of survey. Worked with Steve Oreskovich to supply resources for his class.

Church School: I finalized a new job description for our Church School helper, established a calendar for signing up to lead church school, and enabled volunteers to access church school curriculum on their own. Met with leaders to set up a new church school area in the parish hall that would allow for more air circulation and more visibility. Helped put in place a process for keeping the program COVID safe.

Worship. I encouraged staff to engage the season of creation and I found resources to help support this effort. I presided at one adult worship service in September, and I facilitated one children's worship service.

Communication: Terri and I began weekly meetings to enhance communication and work on longer term vision and goals. Participated in staff meeting and contributed to the Paraclete and the Spirited Times and made my vestry report.

Pastoral Care: During September I provided pastoral care for one individual.

Diocese: I participated in 2 zoom meetings with other clergy from around the diocese. I participated in the monthly Clericus meeting of clergy in western Montana, and one zoom meeting with other clergy serving multiple parishes. I've begun to develop a supportive connection with Rev. Kristin Orr who serves churches in both Emigrant and Livingston.

Study & Self-Care: I met one time with my spiritual director, and I spent one day at the labyrinth in Victor. I continue to study modern church history as I prepare to teach a class in the deacon school. During September I continued reading about the environment as we celebrated the season of creation. I began reading, *Prayer in the Night*, about the compline service from the BCP.

The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier, Assistant Priest

October Vestry Ministry Reports

A) Communications – Judy Parock, Chair

Here are the highlights of what has been happening this past month:

- **Change in Service Times:** As reported last month, we began our fall schedule with a pre-recorded Liturgy of the Word service premiering at 8 a.m. on YouTube and an in-person, non-recorded 10:15 a.m. Eucharist service with choir. In addition to last month's *A Note from the Rector* to notify the congregation of this change in schedule, we updated the Sunday service information throughout our communications. We created new service time rotators and featured them on the homepage of the website. The homepage of the website also includes the updated Sunday service times directly below the rotators, so it is readily available to anyone visiting the site. The Worship page has been reworked to feature the information from Rev. Terri about the fall schedule and to include the links to the two different service leaflets and the direct link to the 8 a.m. worship service. The service information was also updated on our phone message, our app, our listing on Google My Business, the church Facebook page and The Episcopal Church Asset Map.
- **Blessing of the Animals on October 3:** I worked with Rev. Terri to help create two different creation care liturgies for the Blessing of the Animals on October 3. The 8 a.m. service included a special online Blessing of the Animals service like we did last year. Like last year, we requested parishioners' pet photos to include in the service for the Blessing of the Animals, and James Gartner did a fabulous job of incorporating those photos along with photos of wild animals and birds to include in the service. It was really well done.

The 10:15 a.m. service would be an indoor, in-person liturgy where people could bring their pets to the church service for a blessing. Rev. Terri worked with Nancy Cooper and consulted with Bishop Marty to create the special liturgy used at the 10:15 service. Following her liturgical plan, I created the service leaflet for that service as well. Photos from the service were featured in the Spirited Times and on the church Facebook page.

- **2022 Stewardship Plans:** Kirk Johnson and I discussed the plans that have been decided upon for Stewardship 2022. The program will differ from previous years in that it will feature two postcards and a letter from the rector with the pledge card. The postcards that Kirk has designed are colorful and attractive and hopefully will generate interest in this year's theme, "Take heart. Take part." Here is this year's Stewardship schedule:
 - **October 4:**
 - A half-sheet postcard was mailed out introducing the theme and including a short note from the rector. The congregation was also thanked for their faithfulness during this past year.
 - **October 14:**
 - About 10 days later we will send out a second half-sheet postcard with another short note from the rector talking about the ways people can take part in the ministries at Holy Spirit and how they can keep us connected as a community. This card again thanks the congregation for their faithfulness and encourages folks to think about their commitment to Holy Spirit for 2022.
 - **October 25:**
 - The letter and pledge card will go out on the 25th (two weeks ahead of the Ingathering on November 7). This layout features photos from Facebook, Sunday service screen grabs and Ministry logos and photos taken during this past year from the Spirited Times. One side of the letter will feature the nature photos from the Sunday service screen grabs. A number of parishioners have commented on how much they have enjoyed the way nature was featured in our services, and these recorded services helped to keep us connected during this past year. For the second page, Kirk created a wonderful quilt of images he pulled from the Spirited Times. The ministries and volunteerism have kept on during the past year, and some new ministries

have been added. Many have stayed connected this way, and more of us can reconnect by offering to Take Part. Kirk has brought this theme to life with his images and graphics. He's done a brilliant job as always.

We have enough pledge cards and bulk mail envelopes on hand for this mailing. Kirk Johnson will be creating graphics for the various Stewardship pieces (printed and online) that will be used throughout October and the rest of the year. Elizabeth Serviss has updated the electronic pledge card on the website in preparation for the 2022 Stewardship season.

- **Events at Holy Spirit:** We use the *Spirited Times* to continue to promote the events taking place this fall: the Blessing of the Animals, the Sacred Ground Discussion Group, and the Fall Festival. We have created materials to promote these events on our website, church app, Facebook, and the Google My Business page.

– Judy Parock

B) Holiday Market – Caitlin Sherman (Marva Gallegos)

After discussion the Holiday Market group made the decision to hold a “Fall Festival” on October 16 from 10:00 to 2:00 outdoors in the church courtyard. The tree area will be cordoned off and foot traffic directed away from it. Having it outdoors felt like the safest option. We would greatly appreciate help with setup on Saturday at 8:00 a.m. and take down at 2:00 that day. Articles with more info will be in *The Spirited Times*.

I am helping with this area of the Holiday Market as it will be similar to the way the Rummage Sale was handled this year. Diane Rasmuson and Bob Wattenberg will be making decisions regarding possible online sales, the silent auction, and raffle.

– Marva Gallegos, Chair

C) Parish Life – Don Gisselbeck (Kathy Swannack, Coffee Hours; Anne Cohen, receptions)

Reception committee report: There were no receptions this month.

– Anne Cohen

Coffee Hours: No return to after church hospitality is planned at this time.

– Kathy Swannack, Coffee Hour Coordinator

D) Properties – Kevin Borg and Kent Watson (Margaret Borg and Kevin Borg, co-chairs)

Properties/Buildings Report: Please refer to Jeff Serviss and to the items that he is overseeing.

John Hess continued with his maintenance on the exterior building doors on the church and the parish hall. He also helped with the removal of a mountain of trash from the boiler room to the dumpster.

Thank you so much for your help, John! John will put up the parish hall storm windows when he returns from his travels in October. Temp Right Plumbing took care of a leaking sink in the Church School area and the leaking faucet in the office bathroom. Frank and Beverley Sherman took care of the removal of the window air conditioning units in the office. Thank you so much, Frank and Beverley! Fisher Family Construction completed the repairs on the parish hall and church office roofs using the extra shingles from the church garage. Our thanks to Torian Donohoe for her many phone calls shepherding this process through to its conclusion.

While we did not get anyone responding to the “Weed Wrangler” request, Sue LaRose stepped forward and with the help of Braca Landscape took care of weeding and trimming the bushes and beds lining the parking lot. Doug and Judy Anderson brought their trimmers and weeders and took care of the bushes and flower beds in the church courtyard.

- E) Rummage Sale – Holly Swartz (Marva Gallegos, Chair)
No report.
– Marva Gallegos, Chair

- F) Social Concerns – (Jim Wiley, Chair).

**Social Concerns Committee Report
From Meetings on Sept 7 and October 5, 2021**

The meeting opened with prayer led by The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier and The Ven. Dorcie Dvarishkis.

- 1) Report on Borderland Ministry of the Diocese of Rio Grande (Audrey Murray and Clem Work)
The September meeting was focused on final planning for an event on Sept. 16.

The October meeting reported on the results:

- Attendance by over 40 Episcopalians from Holy Spirit, St. Paul’s Hamilton and across the Diocese
- A very interesting and moving presentation by the Diocese of Rio Grande
- Funds raised from a raffle and donations -- \$830! Already sent to Rio Grande to support their efforts
- Vestry approval of Holy Spirit’s Covenant with the Borderlands Ministry, and approval of an additional donation of \$1,000 to support their work... for the remainder of 2021 and 2022
- Excellent attendance at a meeting to plan a “Listening Pilgrimage” to the Diocese of Rio Grande in January 2022; perhaps enough interest to plan a second visit in March 2022
- Vestry very supportive of the “Listening Pilgrimage” and of assisting to send James Gartner to produce a video of the Pilgrimage and the situation at the border
- And a request by Audrey for each member of Social Concerns to reach out to “non-SCC” parishioners to promote interest on/support for this ministry

- 2) Community Ministries (Dorcie Dvarishkis)

- Parenting Place – Parenting Place Sunday at Holy Spirit was on September 19th. The organization supporting Parenting Place, Donation Warehouse, is about to achieve the level of \$1 million funds raised, a cause for great celebration!
- Hellgate High School – Welcome Back was celebrated at the end of August, and we await the appointment of a new Family Resource Center Coordinator, A’Lisa Scott continues to support the Driver’s Ed effort started by Jari Davis. Hellgate High School Sunday is planned for December 12th.
- Common Good – Dates for Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization are available at: <https://commongoodmissoula.nationbuilder.com/events>. Planning is underway for additional education on the issues facing Native Americans on 11/22.

- 3) September Blood Drive (Audrey Murray)

Holy Spirit’s September Blood Drive was very successful – we believe the most successful ever!! A total of 31 units of blood and 4 “power red” donations were provided to the Red Cross! Our next Blood Drive will be on Feb 3, 2022. A coordinator is needed for this effort.

- 4) Budget Update (Jim Wiley)

At the September meeting, formal approval was given for donations to:

- Episcopal Migration Ministries, for Afghan Refugees (\$1,000)
- Episcopal Relief & Development, for Haiti Earthquake Relief (\$500)

These donations were made possible by re-allocating funds, primarily from funds originally expected for Butterfly Grants.

SCC members are urged to consider how we can best take advantage of our remaining budget for 2021.

5) Racial Reconciliation

In September, Glenn Hladek reported on plans to start Sacred Ground training on October 27, the first of two four-week sessions which will run every two weeks and be supplemented by both books and movies. For these first sessions, Glenn and Lindsay Ludicello are planning on a group of 12 to 14 participants.

There was additional discussion on the need to obtain information on the role of the Episcopal Church in boarding schools for Native American children, and announcement that a related Resolution will be presented at the Diocesan Convention in October.

We have been informed that the formal dedication of the Beartrack Bridge (Higgins St.) will be delayed until Spring 2022.

6) Habitat for Humanity

In September, Dorcie Dvarishkis gave an update received from Bob Brewer. The walls of the Carey house are finished, and Holy Spirit volunteers have been well received! Holy Spirit parishioners contributed over 140 work hours on Habitat projects this year!

Also in September, Warren Gartner mentioned alternatives (planters, a tree) that Creation Care Ministry is considering for the Carey home.

7) Creation Care Ministry

In September, Warren Gartner mentioned three planned events: a visit to Garden City Compost, a possible visit to the National Bison Range for "Round-Up" (date pending) and a possible visit to the Sculpture Park in Lincoln.

In October, Clem Work confirmed that roof repairs have been completed and that Solar panels will be installed during the last week of October!

8) Other Business

Returning to a topic discussed in August, the Committee continued consideration of how Holy Spirit can fulfill Canon III.9.6 of TEC: *"The Alms and Contributions, not otherwise specifically designated, at the Administration of the Holy Communion on one Sunday in each calendar month, and other offerings for the poor..."* It was agreed that Dorcie Dvarishkis would draft a letter to the Vestry recommending that Holy Spirit reinstate this practice.

In October, Dorcie reported that she had done this, sending a draft to Clem Work and Jim Wiley; this will be sent to the Vestry for their October meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be Tuesday November 2, 2021 at 5:30 PM, in the Parish Hall

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

– Jim Wiley, Chair

G) Spiritual Formation – Glenn Hladek (Gretchen Strohmaier, Chair)

See Assistant Priest's report.

Youth Ministry: Where we stand with the youth ministry is a rebuilding phase. The first step towards that end was me completing the parish safety courses, background check, and CPR training, all of which I have finished. So, the next step will be to get in touch with the parents and start to figure out which days are best for all of us to meet. This week I have started to send out emails requesting what days are free for each young adult, and hopefully we will find some common ground. I was hoping that we could get a meet and greet hike together for this weekend, but I have not gotten enough responses to make it viable. I will keep pushing without hopefully being annoying, because I want to

meet them by next weekend so I can get a feel for the group. Then I will have a better idea of the needs of our youth and start building from there. That is all I have to report for now. I hope everyone is well and, if you have any questions, I would love to answer them.

– Lewis Myers, Youth Director

H) Stewardship – Torian Donohoe (Barb Hosier, Chair)

The Stewardship campaign for 2022, Take Heart, Take Part, is well underway with the first postcard mailing to all parishioners on October 4. A second post card will be mailed on October 14 with a letter from the rector with a pledge card to be mailed on October 25. All three highlight our thanks for the consistent financial support in the past year and remind parishioners of the important and exciting ministries HSP is able to continue.

Our ingathering of pledges will take place on November 7. A follow-up program after the intake may consist of hand-written notes and phone calls to parishioners who have not responded to the mailings.

– Barb Hosier, Stewardship Chair

Torian Donohoe, Stewardship Committee Vestry Liaison

I) Creation Care Ministry – Warren Gartner (Karen Simons Gartner, Chair)

Creation Care Notes

16 September 2021 noon Via Zoom

Present: Lance Collister, Karen Simons Gartner, Warren Gartner, Kate Laney, Sue Lowery, Gretchen Strohmaier

Opening prayer:

Creator of All,

In this Season of Creation, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all. In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen. From The Episcopal Churches' Season of Creation.

4 areas of focus

a. Holy Spirit Sustainable practices

i. Solar power for church –

1. We got an additional grant from the Diocese for \$10,000 from the Faber Fund - thanks to Mark Dvarishkis for finding this.

ii. We need to communicate to members in a positive way.

1. Lance will write a Paraclete article for October. See attached article from Lance and Clem
2. Karen and Warren will send in short articles for the weekly Spirited Times.
3. We need to plan educational efforts about solar power once the panels are installed.

b. Getting info to members to help them live more sustainably.

i. Sue will write about food waste for November.

ii. Minute for ministry - Kate to contact Terri and speak during church and printing up articles to put in pews. Kate will look into printing.

iii. Recycling containers in the narthex - Kate will find out what this entails.

- iv. Weeding Wrangler - Tracy and Warren wrote an adopt a need request looking for someone to coordinate the landscaping care. Kirk designed the announcement and Judy has added it to various communications. No response yet. Any ideas?
 - v. HSP is participating in a Season of Creation, Sept. 5 through Oct. 3. - 5 Sundays to focus on Creation at church.
 - vi. How to get more kids involved? Contact the Hellgate Highschool Environment Club. What would we like them to do with us? Gretchen will ask her daughter for more information.
- c. Community voice
- i. General convention creation care (CC) proposal - members are to think about what we might want to see adopted. We need to look at existing CC proposals. Gretchen has pointed us in the right direction for this. More information to follow.
 - ii. Trees/raised beds for Carey home - Sue and Gretchen.
 - 1. Sue has contacted Careys, but need to see how things go when the house gets built
 - 2. Gretchen contacted the commissioners, and they hadn't heard of this, but were willing to consider it.
 - iii. [Serenity Prayer for the 21st Century - Sept. 19, 2-3:30 via Zoom or at United Methodist Church.](#) - Warren & Gretchen attended.
 - iv. Ann Schrader called Terri from Interfaith Power and Light - 406.579.3754. Gartners are working on contacting her.
 - v. Add to the Faith and Climate groups spreadsheet that Karen has started on Google Drive. Please add information as you find it. All is in the folder with our minutes
 - 1. [Faith and Climate Action Montana - Home](#)
 - 2. <https://www.montanaipl.org/>
- d. Fun opportunities
- i. Field trip updates
 - 1. Ideas
 - a. Blackfoot pathways
 - i. Sculpture gardens
 - ii. Observatory on Blue Mountain
 - iii. National Bison Range roundup in September/October- Warren - still trying to get a date - BR hasn't set a date yet.
 - 2. August - Garden City Compost - had 2 new people as well as Tracey Gage, Dave Lowrey and the Kennedys.
 - 3. Lance suggested we consider using his friends Matt Arno and Melissa Anderson who live off the grid near Potomac as great speakers for a workshop. Possibly through a zoom workshop first and then a field trip to see how they live sustainably. Lance will contact them. Lance will follow up.
 - a. Other
 - 4. Matthew 25 - collects prescription bottles
 - a. Need someone to make sure they are clean, clear, and sorted by size.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 21, 2021, via Zoom
 – Karen Simons Gartner