

## – MINUTES –

### ST. ANNE'S SPECIAL CALLED VESTRY MEETING

FEBRUARY 18, 2021

\*Meeting held by Zoom videoconference\*

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Present: Fr. Lonnie Lacy, Mary Alice Applegate, Erin Campbell, Jill Coogle, Sarah Cook, Carl Duncan, Donna Falcone, Allen Lamb, Brandon Medley, Linda Moore, Kathy Moreno, Lorie Felton (Treasurer), and Pam Leonard (Clerk).

Absent: Jenna Claire Riddle

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1. OPENING PRAYER – Fr. Lonnie opened the meeting with prayer.
2. TOPIC – The topic for this special called Vestry meeting is planning a return to in-person worship.
3. DISCUSSION
  - a. The reasons prompting the discussion for a return to in-person worship are:
    - i. The current format is not sustainable, nor is it what our hearts desire.
    - ii. Outdoor services present numerous challenges, especially in cases of inclement weather.
    - iii. Updates to the Bishop's Guidelines for Worship have been received. These procedures are based on guidance the House of Bishops has received from leading experts at the CDC and NIH.
    - iv. COVID case numbers have improved in the area, and vaccinations are being administered.
  - b. Fr. Lonnie offered the following plan for consideration.
    - i. Per the Bishop's guidelines, services are currently limited to 50 people each. Sign-ups will be necessary to make sure we do not exceed that limit. Sunday services will be held at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m., with the possibility of adding another on Wednesday. All services will be identical.
    - ii. Weekly worship status will be determined each Thursday by a rolling 2-week average of Tift County COVID infection rates and regional

hospital occupancy rates. If COVID cases are below 35 per 100,000 and hospitals are at less than 85 percent capacity, worship will be held in-person. If higher, the service will be online.

- iii. Worship status will be confirmed each Thursday for the following week by email newsletter, website, and social media. If the status is “In Person,” parishioners will attend the service they signed up for. (The 10 a.m. service will also be livestreamed on YouTube, Facebook, and the St. Anne’s website.) If “Online,” worship will be offered at 10 a.m.
  - iv. In-person services will include Eucharist with instrumental music, sung solos, typical prayers, Communion (bread only), and a sermon. Each service will last 40-45 minutes. Precautions such as masks, distancing, contact tracing, and hand sanitizing will be followed. No nursery or Sunday School will be offered at this time.
  - v. On weeks when services are not in-person, Fr. Lonnie, Choir Director Stan Smith, and a media volunteer will livestream the service from the sanctuary. Services will no longer be pre-recorded from the Rector’s home.
  - vi. As Easter services require much special planning, this worship schedule will begin the following week on April 11. However, the Holy Week schedule will include a mix of online worship and in-person experiences.
- c. After discussion, Fr. Lonnie asked the group to take time for discernment and prayer before making a decision. He will call for a vote by email on Sunday.

#### 4. INFORMATION

- a. Fr. Lonnie reported that newly elected Vestry member Eric Schwalls has resigned his seat due to a change in employment status and responsibilities. Filling this vacancy will be discussed at the Vestry Retreat.

#### 5. DECISION – *\*Note: The Vestry voted unanimously to move forward with the plan for in-person worship via the Sunday, February 21 email poll.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Leonard