

Emergency Meeting of the Vestry

Trinity Episcopal Church

Friday, March 13, 2020

The emergency meeting of the Vestry was called by Father Rob Baldwin and began at 7:01.

Present: Leslie Foust, Father Rob Baldwin, John Broholm, William Perkins, Elizabeth Miller, Linda McCoy, Betsi Anderson, Camille Olcese, David Severance, Steve King, Senior Warden and Richard Lungstrum, Junior Warden.

Absent: Jennifer Attocknie, Donna Griffin

Also present: Dr. Don Hatton, Vashti Winterburg, and Barry Molineaux

Father Rob shared with the group that Lawrence Schools have been canceled for the next 2 weeks. He has had conversations with various groups within the church including the staff and Altar Guild. He reminded the Vestry of the Bishop's letter that included guidelines of hand washing, discouraged use of the cup during Communion, etc. He said many of the clergy in the area were deciding not to have worship at this time and mentioned some of them.

Betsie Anderson summarized what the CDC is recommending and what LMH is doing: no unnecessary travel, no food vendors, trying to keep clinical staff separate and healthy, etc. The CDC continues to adapt concepts as conditions change. The Episcopal church recommending social distancing, special concerns for those over 60 and avoidance of large groups and public places. The Spanish Flu of 1918 was mentioned. The use of Facebook for services was also mentioned at this time. Father Rob said Facebook is being heavily used by other churches.

Dr. Don Hatton spoke about Department of Health guidelines and brought recent updates. He explained that changes are occurring

daily. He explained the plan at LMH for procedures for screening and how long this can take. It is difficult to do right now and reiterated guidelines of social distancing, hand washing, etc.

Father Rob explained options available to Trinity during this emergency and whether services should continue or be suspended. The Food Pantry also needed to be addressed, especially since it is supposed to be open in the morning. He expressed that he felt no services should be held. Betsi cited the situation in Italy and wondered where the United States would be in 3 weeks. She continued it is important to flatten the curve so hospitals and staff are not overwhelmed. This is a developing situation and can be revisited in 3 weeks when the Vestry meets again. Bill Perkins recommended no nursery, Sunday School, etc. Steve reminded the group that we are in a pandemic and 30 days may be more appropriate than 2 weeks. David Severance brought up the issues of staff and the church office as well as the church building itself.

Barry Molineaux said the Food Pantry was scheduled to open tomorrow. Several scenarios were discussed as to how do distribute food. He also stated that most of the volunteers are over 70 and how to mitigate exposure for them. John Broholm mentioned that Meals on Wheels continues to operate. Back Stack will not be able to distribute since schools are closed, but will find a way to continue to deliver to children in need. Vashti spoke to food insecurity in Kansas: 8% for adults and 18% for children. Can food be delivered to another source for distribution?

Father Rob spoke to staffing issues and how to continue to run the church office during this emergency. He recommended Vicki continue in the office as pledges continue to come in. He recommended not using the volunteers at this time and let Kathy handle the rest. Since KU is not in session Jonah does not need to come into the office. The music staff continues to rehearse and no decision has been made concerning the children's education

director. Bill Perkins recommended the Vestry go into executive session at 7:55.

At 8:10 the Vestry came out of executive session. A motion was made and seconded to suspend services on March 15th, 22nd and 29th. Midweek services would also be suspended during this time. Services would be replaced with virtual options. Small groups that meet at the church such as Trinity Treasures, Christian Classics and Bible Study would be suspended during this time. The Vestry voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

There was further discussion about the food ministries. Was there a way to open tomorrow, waive registration, etc. Elizabeth Miller said there was no way that this could happen. Father Rob reminded the group that the sign posted states that when schools are not in session the Food Pantry will also be closed. Discussion continued. There was a motion to suspend the opening of the Food Pantry on Saturday morning. It was seconded and passed unanimously. Bill Perkins made a motion that the Rector and wardens approve any further Food Pantry authorization. This was seconded and approved with 8 ayes, Elizabeth Miller opposed and Richard Lungstrum abstaining.

A motion was made and seconded that all salaries for staff be continued for the next 2 weeks. Passed unanimously.

Leslie suggested that the Vestry make special effort to reach out to the parish during this emergency, siting those who will feel isolated at this time. Bill will print a member directory for each of the Vestry members for this use. Father Rob urged everyone in this ministry. He further stated he will send a letter to the parish via email as well as the website and Facebook page.

Back Snack was again discussed with no conclusion reached.

Father Rob will conduct morning prayer at 10:30 Sunday mornings on Facebook. It will also be available as a Podcast.

Father Rob sited John 15:13 in closing and reminded the Vestry that what is happening should be kept in perspective compared to Jesus' sacrifice for us.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Patterson

Clerk of the Vestry