

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Vestry Retreat & February Business Meeting
2-18-23
9am - 3pm
At St. Paul's Episcopal School Lower Library

Those Present: Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson, Sr. Warden Indira Balkissoon, Jr. Warden Richard Larson, Treasurer Brian Stanke and Vestry Members Frances Dibble, Maura Lane, Digger Lauter, Irene Plunkett, Matthew Schooler, and Pam Buckingham, Clerk.
Absent: None!

Guests: Doug Jensen & The Rev. Dr. Scot Sherman

We opened our meeting with Morning Prayer led by Fr. Mauricio.

Our First Session covered the following topics:

- Vestry definitions and structures
- Icebreaker: Getting to know each other
- Church Polity: Governance Structures of the Episcopal Church
 - We are encouraged to read the [Canons of the National Church](#) as well as the [Canons of the Diocese of California](#) so we are familiar with what is expected of a Parish Vestry.
- Parish Functions and Vestry Role
- Temporal Affairs: Theory vs. Actual
- Vestry Covenant
 - The St. Paul's Vestry adheres to the [St. Paul's Vestry Covenant](#)
- Vestry Spirituality

Other Housekeeping

- Regular Vestry meetings will be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm on Zoom.
- Will Cowart remains the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Liaison with St. Paul's Episcopal School.
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The Second Session covered Goals and Activities

- Fundraising at St. Paul's
- 2023 Priorities:
 - New Strategic Planning process (MINISTRY ACTION PLAN)
 - Areas of Priority and create discernment and visioning opportunities for the Parish to participate and give input. Using the 2018-2021 plan, what can we tweak and update? Create a new plan in 2023 that is ready to launch in 2024. We want to listen with deep intent,

- and give up our ego state to do what is best for the Parish. Indira, Pam & Richard will work on the Visioning Process
- Pastoral Care and Membership
- Worship resources
- Capital/Financial Priorities - Brian will work with Richard on a Master Financial Plan
 - Buildings - We need a Master Building Plan
 - Bring Kitchen up to code?
 - Resolve water issues under building & replace church floors?
 - New roof?
 - New sound & video media system in the church
 - \$15+ Mil to bring everything our buildings need
 - Complete Staffing
 - Loan payment (Earthquake Retrofit Line of Credit @ Union bank via the Diocese has a balance owing of \$337,000. St. Paul's School has paid off their portion.

St. Paul's is a blessed place with an amazing ethos that is different from any other church in the Diocese of CA. We are poised to do great things! We adjourned for a walk to Whole Foods to grab lunch and came back to the table to keep talking and getting to know one-another.

Third Session: Business Meeting

The Business Meeting was called to order at 1:15 [pm by Fr. Mauricio.

- Approval of Minutes: January 2023 and February 2023
 - Minutes were tabled until everyone has a chance to review them.
- Funding of 2022 Operating Deficit
 - It was moved and seconded to approve funding the 2022 budget deficit in the amount of [\\$147,926.64 in the following manner](#). Brian Stanke/Indira Balkissoon/Unanimous
- 2022 Parochial Report Process

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 2pm.

Fourth Session: Outside Guests

- Lay Discernment Committee - Doug Jensen came and talked to us about Cara Meredith's Discernment Committee work. The Committee will be recommending Cara to the Vestry for nomination to the Postulancy. Cara will meet with the Vestry in March and we will be asked whether or not we endorse her will be decided April 28.

- Vital and Thriving - Rev. Dr. Scot Sherman came to talk to us about joining the next class of churches doing the [Vital & Thriving Program](#), which is a program for Congregational Development which asks the question: How do we go about looking and acting like Jesus? How can we unlock our capacity to discover God's promised and preferred vision of the future?

The retreat adjourned at 3:15 pm.