

April Vestry Meeting
Minutes (approved)
April 18, 2016

The Vestry of R E Lee Memorial Episcopal Church met on Monday, March 21 at 5:00pm

In Attendance: Tom Crittenden (Rector), Woody Sadler (Senior Warden), Grigg Mullen (Junior Warden), George Brooke, Susan Cross, Doug Cumming, Carole Elmore, Elizabeth Knapp, Susan Lawrence, Holt Merchant, and Don Whittington

Absent: Keith Gibson, Julia Grossman, Catherine Marcus, Daniel Wubah

Guests: Tom Gosse, Sharon Massie

Opening: Woody Sadler, Senior Warden called the meeting to order.

Comments by Parishioners: Howard Pickett thanked the Vestry for the parish meetings with consultants and encouraged the Vestry to vote to continue the process. Holly Pickett also thanked the Vestry for the parish meeting with the consultants and supports having a 3rd party work with our parish. Brant Hellwig spoke saying that he was excited and encouraged by the consultants and hopes that the consultants will move the congregation forward towards transformation.

Prayer: Tom noted current parish concerns and opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The March minutes were approved as distributed.

Tax Credits Update and Action: Tom Gosse spoke about the approval of Virginia State Historic Tax Credits for our upcoming renovation projects to the parish house and future renovation to the undercroft and organ project. The parish house qualifies for the credits because it is attached to the church by the bridge and we are located in an important historic district of Lexington. The tax credit process is arduous but could ultimately net the church between \$150,000 and \$350,000. The Finance Committee recommended a motion to bring an attorney from Roanoke whose firm specializes in Historic Tax Credits (and may potentially represent our church) to meet with the finance committee and Vestry to discuss the process for a fee no larger than \$2000. **Passed.**

Standing Committee Reports: *(reports needed from Finance, Property, S&S and Worship)*

Finance

Property

Construction – Grigg Mullen reported that contracts have been signed and construction is still on track to begin June 1.

Safety and Security Committee –

Administration and Personnel –A chair needs to be identified for this committee. No business to report.

Worship Committee

Old Business:

Church Healing and Reconciliation

The Vestry discussed the parish meetings with the consultants on April 10 and their feelings on the need for consultants. The motion was brought forth, Do we hire consultants, The Rev. James Isaacs and Barbara Stephens, from EMU? **Passed.**

Doug Cumming will head up selecting a listening steering committee. George Brooke, Susan Lawrence and Grigg Mullen will also serve on this ad hoc selection committee.

Convention 2017- 4 delegates and 2 alternates are needed to represent R E Lee at the DIOSWVA Convention in January, 2017. Susan Cross, Elizabeth Harralson, Tom Gosse and James Keane will represent R E Lee as delegates. Daniel Wubah and Punky Dod will be alternates. **Passed.**

New Business: None

Suggestion Box: There was one note in the suggestion box that said “Thank You!”

Program Director:

Sharon Massie highlighted the upcoming Stop Hunger Now food pack on May 1. She also showed a tied blanket that Club 45 made to be sent to a 3rd world country. Maggie Lawrence and Sophie Brown are to participate as part of the Youth Ministry Team at the DIOSWVA Spring Youth Event, April 22-24.

Comments by the Wardens:

Grigg Mullen thanked the Vestry for their support of hiring the consultants.

Woody Sadler has handed out copies of the *Vestry Resource Guide* from the Episcopal Church Foundation (www.ecfvp.org) for each Vestry member and encouraged everyone to read them.

Comments by the Rector:

Tom spoke about the refugee family from the Congo. They arrived March 11. The family is settling in their temporary home. They will need long-term housing. Local churches and the community are being very helpful and supportive. Several of the children are in school and are learning English quickly. The father and mother are working with tutors from Washington and Lee to learn English. The family will welcome a new baby in early fall.

Another family from the Congo is expected in Lexington in the coming months.

Closing Prayer: Holt Merchant offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30. Next Vestry meeting is scheduled for May 16 at 5 pm.

Minutes were prepared and submitted by Sharon Masie, Program Director