

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, VESTRY MINUTES

Action/Date Due
for Review/
Assigned To

Date: September 30, 2019 **Time Started:** 4:30pm **Time Ended:** 6:30pm

Next Regular Meeting: 5:00pm, Tuesday, **October 22**, 2019. Vestry reports due by **Saturday, October 19**.

Members Present: Barbara Moloney, Cristi Johnson, Michael Smith, Jim Woodruff, Loraine Hilty, Mary Maupin, Donna Turnbaugh, Mary Jo Sparrow.

Members Absent: Debra Alexander; Adam Reda

Other Attendees: David McNair, Rector; Ty Jones, Deacon

DISCUSSION/FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

AGENDA ITEM: **Welcome, Opening Prayer** (*David McNair*)

AGENDA ITEM: **Brainstorming Next Steps for ECHS** (*David McNair*)

- Offer a safe zone for people to express (extreme) opinions
- Survey – then questions posted... people gravitate to what’s important to them.
- Use the discernment process guidelines that we used with The Discernment Group
- People should be given different ways to give feedback
- Apology doesn’t seem appropriate now
- Helpful to name/claim what we learned, what mistakes we made
- Draft what we did wrong
- Draft a Prayer/collect to share with the congregation... sadness, need God’s help
- Anger unexpected – some people don’t like leadership
- Go back to list “What we have learned.”
- Are you happy in your church life?
- Contract with The Discernment Group to do a session or two with entire church.
- Presented as a package plan to the congregation.
- Make sure the plan is not disjointed.

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- Are you happy in your church life?
- Use The Discernment Committee with the congregation
- We need neutral people as facilitators
- Address underlying anxieties –soul searching together
- What would health and healing look like?
- Have Bob Johnson help us
- Somehow ease into it
- Holy Listening in the Season of Advent – How does Christ come to us? Epiphany – illumination
- Ask congregation what they think we could have done better

Next Steps for Vestry and ECHS:

1. Present a public statement from the Vestry to the parish stating what we have learned through the discernment process related to the question of whether or not to become a Sanctuary Host Church (Sometime about the first of November)
2. Write a prayer/collect that collects our prayer as we move forward together – (Ty volunteered to spearhead this)
3. Present a survey to the congregation eliciting reflection and feedback related to our common life and mission. (Barbara will work on this and send out promptly to the Vestry. It was noted by Mary Jo that there had been a very good/effective survey used with the congregation some years ago. Barbara volunteered to seek to locate this former survey).
4. Public gathering with The Discernment Group – David will check with Sandra Smith about the possibility of contracting with The Discernment Group about working with our congregation for a session or two and about their fee for this service.
5. Listening – congregation can tell us what we “should have done.”
6. **HOMEWORK:** The Vestry will review the “What we Have Learned” statements from our May 7, 2019, Special Vestry meeting (printed below) and consider other lessons learned/gleamed BEFORE our Vestry meeting on Oct. 22 at 5:00 p.m. We will reconsider these lessons learned together at our meeting and compile a new “What We Have Learned” list, which we will share with the congregation in the near future.

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AGENDA ITEM: Other Business

Loraine Hilty volunteered Amanda Hilty and herself to serve as delegates to the Episcopal Diocesan Convention November 8-9, 2019, at Trinity Episcopal, Asheville. Esther Moriarty has also volunteered to be a convention delegate but because of her illness, the Vestry decided to name her as an Alternate.

Rewrite of What We Have Learned (from May 7, 2019 Vestry Meeting minutes):

Some believe the Vestry can't be trusted. In the future Vestry members must identify themselves to those whom they represent and attend congregational meetings in order to hear feedback from the congregation.

*Expectations needed to be clear and agreed upon by both Vestry and congregation. ***

The congregation needed regular updates of progress on sanctuary discernment.

The discernment committees should have consulted ECHS members who actually volunteered at the UU Sanctuary.

Communication, transparency, and openness should have characterized the discernment process.

There should have been open participation in the discernment process. Any discernment process should be open to all. In the future, members need to be aware of how to access Vestry and how to be part of working groups.

Vestry needs to advertise that anyone is welcome to attend and participate (though not vote) in Vestry meetings, through after-service announcements as well as through the Mountain Spirit.

We need ground rules for communication: e-mail communication in conflictual situations is NOT constructive.

Those with opposing viewpoints should have been treated with respect.

*We should have clarified the purpose of the meetings, presented the plan, and received feedback. ***

Feasibility studies should have involved more members of the congregation throughout the process.

Feasibility studies should have been open to anyone who wanted to participate.

A feasibility study should have been based on verifiable facts.

There may be unhealed wounds left over from a past division experienced by ECHS.

Initial evaluation of safety concerns should have begun by having a qualified law enforcement official inspect the building and report areas of concern.

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We should have considered thoroughly the safety and well-being of hosted persons, taking into account their mental and physical health.

We should have considered the consequences of hosting on other outreach ministries.

***unclear (to Donna Turnbaugh and Mary Maupin) what is meant by these statements*

Next regular Vestry Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 22, 2019, beginning at 5:00pm.**

Reports are due by midnight **Saturday, October 19, 2019.**

Respectfully submitted,
Lorrie Cooper, Clerk