

Vestry Meeting
St. Francis By-the-Sea Episcopal Church
May 18, 2022

Present via Zoom were Nathaniel Boëchat, Junior Warden Sarah Everdell, Heather Ford, Tyler Knowles, Senior Warden Milissa LaLonde, Kate Mulrenin, and Clerk Chris Ramsay, and Lynne Yurosko.

Bill Gould, Treasurer Kevin Hunt, and Fr. Brent Was were absent.

Prudy Heilner joined the Vestry for the discussion about the young man from Afghanistan.

Milissa opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with a prayer.

The Vestry voted to accept the **minutes of the April 20, 2021 meeting**.

Bishop Brown met with Milissa and Sarah. He assured us that the office in Portland is keeping our needs in mind, and not to hesitate to reach out for guidance and help. We'll continue with supply priests through the summer as needed. He emphasized that all the Vestry needs to be in constant communication to make sure everyone is doing okay, and keep everyone updated on how well St. Francis is doing. Spiritual growth is important and needs to continue. Brent and his family are still part of the St. Francis community.

Finding useful ways in which to support the Was family is very much on people's minds. Several people have asked what help might be needed, without being intrusive. Sometimes rides have been needed; sometimes help with heavy work on the farm. Milissa will ask Barbara if she can coordinate congregants' desire to provide meals for the Was family with Meal Train. Heather suggested we consider a Palanca-type system to offer notes of support and encouragement to the Was family. Milissa will try to see if they would appreciate this support.

From Afghanistan to Blue Hill

Sarah, Milissa and Prudy reported on progress in getting the young Afghan man to the United States and GSA. He and his mother reached Quetta in Pakistan some months ago and are working through the process to get an appointment to get a visa. After a medical appointment on June 1, they have visa appointment dates (June 7 for him and June 17 for his mother). After staying in Islamabad for a few weeks, they may be on their way to the United States shortly afterwards. He and his mother will first travel to Salt Lake City to join his father and brother, then the young man hopes to come to Blue Hill at the end of July or beginning of August where he'll probably spend one year at GSA.

He'll need a total of about \$50,000, of which \$35,000 goes to GSA for housing and tuition; the remainder for expenses (clothes, bedding, travel in the US, etc., etc.). St. Francis will not need to raise all these funds – the Congregational Church, St. Brendan's, and other community members have joined Milissa and Sarah in discussions about fund-raising.

GSA has two funds already established: a Maine Student Opportunity Fund and Boarding Student Opportunity Fund. They're in the process of establishing a Refugee Educational Fund as a subset of the Boarding Student one. Two other refugees from Ukraine are interested in this as well. Gifts to GSA funds are tax-deductible but not specifically desig-

nated for any one individual. Contributions specifically directed to any specific cannot be IRS charitable gifts.

Expert technology assistance is badly needed. Milissa spoke with Bob Publicover about this, and he very much supports it. Kevin has been consulted; we may utilize some funds from the Downeast Spiritual Life account. We need a clear definition of the problems we have, and what we want to accomplish. Kate and Nathaniel will talk with Bob Publicover to start this process.

Safe Church Training is required before having anything to do with children. All church leaders are strongly encouraged to do this training program, either for the first time or to renew certification. [Safe Church Training](#) is available through the Diocesan website.

Barbara's Annual Review is due. As part of the review process, Milissa will ask her to list two or three things that are going well; two or three things that could be improved, and a brief self-reflection. After discussion, Heather moved we give Milissa to talk with Kevin to possibly raise Barbara's salary up to \$26.50. Sarah seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Congregants will be invited to join **Committees**. They're formed of congregants and a vestry liaison.

The **Hospitality Committee** are people who can oversee Coffee Hour; people to whom we can look for weddings, funerals, and other church events, opening open the church and making sure it's closed at the end.

The **Technology Committee** includes Kate, Nathaniel, Milissa, and hopefully Bob Publicover

The **Policy and Procedures Committee** meets once yearly to review policies and procedures. Heather will be on this committee.

The **Education Committee** will be headed by Kate; Lynne will also be a member. This committee organizes Wednesday Seekers, finds programming, oversees Religious Education (Heather is liaison with Religious Ed), and Adult Forum. Wednesday Seekers runs from 10-11 a.m. on Wednesdays; Religious Education works with children; and Adult Forum is after church on Sundays.

The **Buildings and Grounds Committee** includes John Paul LaLonde, Bill Gould and David Decrow.

The **Communications Committee** includes Bob Publicover.

The **Fundraising Committee** could but does not have to include refugee fundraising. Lynne would like to help with this one.

The **Refugee Committee** is primarily a fund-raising committee. Sarah, Milissa, Kate, and Prudy represent St. Francis on this committee.

The **Outreach Committee** has as its mission serving the Blue Hill Peninsula. Sarah is its chair.

The **Nominating Committee** is in effect for one year. It is supposed to have a Vestry member who is leaving, the Senior Warden (Sarah will take Milissa's place here), two at-large parishioners, and a former Senior Warden. Sarah's, Bill's, and Lynne's terms expire this August, and we will need to replace Sarah and Lynne. Bill will serve another term. This committee also identifies two or three delegates and two alternates to the Diocesan Con-

vention. It also selects a proposed chair for Planned Giving. The Nominating Committee brings proposed names to the Vestry for vetting.

Annual Meeting will be on August 28, the last Sunday in August. We may not have an Annual Picnic like we did in pre-Covid years.

Ventilation and air circulation in the church was discussed briefly. We will continue to put fans in the windows and turn on the exhaust fan downstairs. The screens will be put back in the windows and the windows opened. Heather has been opening windows and getting the fans going before the service.

The **next Vestry meeting** will be on Wednesday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Ramsay, Clerk