

**Church of the Holy Nativity
Regular Meeting of the Vestry (via Zoom)
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6p.m.**

Present:

R. Libby Berman
Rosemary Domecki, Senior Warden
Justin Donohue, Junior Warden
Ed Moore
Wyn Aubrey-Child
Jean Steele, Treasurer
Rich Miller
Lila Johnson
Tusi Mayer
Gretchen Yamaguchi
Nina Livingston

Guest:

R. Bob Steele
Alison Kittle

Absent:

Jeff Taylor

Call to Order:

6:05 p.m. R. Libby called meeting to order.

R. Libby invited members to request prayers, just email her requests.

Devotion and Prayer:

Opening prayer provided by R. Libby.

Approval of Minutes:

Review of January 2021 minutes (taken by Tusi Mayer)

EDITS REQUESTED:

- Jeff Taylor –add to absent
- Last page, re Nellie Hartman “Rich to review” – EDIT to “Ed and Rich to review” (Ed requested a copy of the document)

Minutes approved, with edits.

Holy Nativity School (HNS), Head of School Report

Jeanne Wilks

-No report (due to illness)

All HNC Vestry now included in HNS eblast distribution list.

Rector's Report:

R. Libby Berman

Vestry Orientation:

- Typically a retreat, looking to alternatives due to COVID.
- Although this Vestry is largely the same composition, we will look to coordinating teambuilding exercises, possibly prayer / spiritual work at some of our meetings.

Parochial Report:

- Reference page 2 for HNC statistics
- Summary: Things are delightfully calm, quiet. The Annual Meeting was organized and calm.

Services and Study:

Entering 2nd cycle liturgically

Due to the pandemic, Holy Week will look a little different.

Ash Wednesday service will be in-person tomorrow night (2/17/21)

HNC Tech Team is at their max –seeking additional recruits!

Formation:

- “Becoming Beloved Community”
- R. Alison Dingley, Deacon Bob Steele, and R. Libby Berman co-facilitating
- 5 sessions will include Listening, sharing personal stories and experiences.
- Racial Justice and Political Divisions
- Both HNC & HNS welcome
- See how comfortable you are
- Don't have to attend all sessions, but perhaps best to try the series at the “start,” rather than join in at the end.
- Begins next Wednesday, Feb. 24, 6 – 7 p.m.

Easter and Holy Week will depend on tier status. Taking things one service at a time.

Referencing page 2 of the Agenda: New Vestry Year Orientation

- Which of the 4 grabs you? (invited responses)
- for R. Libby, all appropriate, value of work will show in growth of congregation.
- Ed: The Leaders are a clear statement. Might be something to look at.
- Jean: (ref. time in corporate) We created value statements to set up all for success. For example: It is a sin to be late, and / or show up without an agenda. At the end of (each) meeting, they would review.

-Bob: Guideline. How would we know at the end of the meeting, that we had a successful meeting?

-Wyn: Communication is KEY, to Church Members (all).

-Many Members come to Sunday and that's it. How to engage during the rest of the week? Midweek things.

-Rich: Inclusivity. Some are hesitant. How do we engage them?

-Rosemary: Many lessons out of COVID. We can reach people in different ways.

Consider structuring and outreach differently, more accessible. Meet people where they are, not where we are.

-Tusi: I like what everyone is saying. Look at what other churches are doing too. How do we reach (people)? How do we network? We need to adapt.

-Ed: what is it that our congregation would like? Benefit of Zoom is people, especially seniors, don't need to drive / drive at night to participate.

-Wyn: Noted a recent activity wasn't well attended in-person. For extra-curricular, wondering if someone could do a report after, announce at Sunday service, which could (hopefully) encourage more people to attend?

-Rosemary: Also, consider timing –before / after service. Revisit how we do things.

-Libby: As a vestry –How to bring church to school? Tomorrow, HNC is bringing bags of ashes for each student (abt. 90 households), with an invitation to attend.

Consider: What do our current members need? And how best to reach out to our school and community?

Imagine being larger!

How can we work stronger / more cohesive as a vestry?

Justin: (ref. pg. 2 of agenda) #1 –“Are they learning ...” Are the children learning? How to engage the little ones? Consider fun, athletic, -up and out of house and in church. What can we do to engage, -they are the future. Get outside!

R. Libby: Talking with Chandi Hinrichs, who is getting ready to have socially distanced Sunday School after Easter for the keiki. She's done a pretty marvelous job with crafts –along with Tusi.

Tusi: I like “Are they learning” –both the children and us (adults). She (Tusi) and Chandi want to see kids in-person, and they are working towards that goal, hopefully by March, will have plans working towards that.

Ed: Try and sell this adult formation idea.

R. Libby: Great input.

Senior Warden's Report:

Rosemary Domecki, Senior Warden

She and R. Libby meet every week (typically Thursdays), and the meetings are very fruitful.

They are reviewing the various roles and functions within the Parish, management structure. We are in very competent hands with Justin as Junior Warden.

With regard to the role of the Senior Warden, this position is to be more akin to the traditional role as advisor to the Rector.

Reaching out to employees to better understand each role –“Gear Box”
Learning and supporting.

Junior Warden:

Justin Donahue

Just a few items.

- Looking to establish new, dedicated email for Junior Warden (former Jr. Warden Eva Eglington still has previous one)
- Securing bids for cleaning of the nave, also looking at cleaning schedule. (monthly, quarterly, etc.)
- Regarding replacing the A/C in the sacristy: looking for a “finish carpenter,” as the space will require some millwork.

Rosemary offered to contact her contractor.

- Gutters: There’s a gutter spout missing (@Keiki 3’s), and they need to be cleaned out.
Rosemary: How many linear feet are we talking about?
Justin: It’s more than ten (10) feet, but not sure exactly.
- In the nave –looking to clean up running wires (trip hazard)
- Sidewalk: When they (City) ripped up the sidewalk, City is looking to charge HNC for root damage. However, Justin has reports from an onsite professional who observed the project, which contests the amount of damage. Out of 214 feet of ripped up concrete, City claims 60 feet was caused by HNC tree roots. The bill from the City is currently \$20,000.

Rosemary: The former Jr. Warden (Joe Kindrich) said in a report that he spoke with someone regarding this potential situation, could we be put in contact with that person?

Justin: The consultant arborist we engaged, his report should be sufficient.

Rosemary: Is there a deadline? Is there time to negotiate?

Justin: Not sure.

Rich: Would spot repairs be possible?

Justin: Previous Jr. Warden (Joe Kindrich) did spot repairs, however the City came and did it all.

R. Libby: I believe this project was in response to a lawsuit.

Rich: The uneven sidewalk, it’s not a new dispute / issue.

R. Libby: Justin and Rosemary will follow up with Joe and the City. HNC bookkeeper (Kathy Kia) has the bill.

Rich: Has our insurance carrier been notified? If not, we should put them on notice of the situation.

Lila: We have a receptive Council Member (Tommy Watters), be nice to work with him.

End of report.

(moving on ...)

R. Libby: Alison Kittle will be reporting a bit later in our meeting. Nina is currently taking the minutes at my (R. Libby’s) request.

R. Libby and Rosemary are looking to have a staffer take the minutes in the future. However, they have asked Nina to be the Clerk and participate as part of the HNC leadership team, as well as take the minutes. At the end of this meeting, we’ll be asking for Vestry approval of this.

Additionally, Jean Steele has agreed to once again serve as Treasurer.

We will vote on both of these in New Business.

Treasurer’s Report:

Jean Steele

Ref. spreadsheet, line 5: Hefty number. Pretty typical.

Space Use: Close to budget

Expenses: last of the Fall Festival checks going out

Cash (required to report): as usual, high

Tithe.ly use: Small batch of people using regularly. It's incredibly easy to use (bank account or credit card number). Encourage all to try out. Not yet a big number, but hoping to grow.

Pledging is down. In 2020-2021 we lost 3 pledgers. (perhaps due to COVID, perhaps other)

Regarding the budget, still looking at quarterly review and (possible) reset (+2 months to go).

Likely \$45,000 to be received from second PPP application. Hope to draw down less.

Hoping to draw down \$90,000 - \$100,000 instead of \$150,000.

Hartman Fund Review: HNC has lots of correspondence from the donor, which hopefully will help facilitate clear(er) direction and application. In the past, there was a rector who changed the usage of the fund; we are looking to correct the course. The funds here are to be used for Christian Formation. *If we do not use for two (2) or more years, the Diocese will take / make use of it.

Ed: We were going to give funds to the EYE (Episcopal Youth Event) in Summer of 2020; due to COVID, however, the event was cancelled and so we weren't able to assist.

Jean: Could we use it to help with seminarian tuition?

Rich: Could it go towards tech to better help with reach and teaching?

Documents are available to review on an individual basis, not mass distribution.

We require two (2) votes, per Peter Perreira, to authorize PPP application (second round).

MOTION: HNC Vestry moves to approve second draw (application) for PPP.

Jean Steele made motion

Ed Moore seconded

Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

R. Libby: Parochial Report

-3 parts, completed by R. Libby, Treasurer Jean Steele, and bookkeeper Kathy Kia.

1st part: Services, Baptisms, etc. logged numbers.

2nd part: Kathy prepared, and Jean reviewed. Includes cash on hand, financials.

3rd part: Narrative of HNC. R. Libby prepared this portion.

2 places for review / edit:

#23: Regular Sunday service –correct to YES

#12: (to be answered by the Vestry) “the Vestry is committed to working toward racial justice and reconciliation...” From the possible answers, vestry chose by consensus to “Strongly agree” with the statement.

Lila: Why isn't there agreement between #11 and 12?

R. Libby: Rector answered the same question, but chose “Agree,” rather than “strongly agree.” Rationale is that we at HNC are moving toward a strong commitment to racial reconciliation, but we are not quite there yet. Feel it is fine for Rector and vestry to express these two opinions; we are headed in the same direction.

Rosemary (additional): Through development of Online services, people are able to contribute, we’ve built a much stronger community.

Ed: Adult formation, under R. Libby’s leadership, we’ve coordinated six adult formation classes.

Ed: re page 8 “Food Pantry”: We have supported a Food Pantry.

Jean: the last item on that page may speak to that.

R. Libby: #15 “Other not listed,” we listed it there.

Ed: How about clothing for prisoners?

Wyn: All included in “outreach.”

MOTION: R. Libby: Is there a motion to approve the Parochial Report as edited?

Gretchen: So moved.

Rosemary: Seconded

MOTION PASSES

Parochial Report needs to be submitted by March 1, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS:

Two items:

#1

HNC Member Alison Kittle, as part of the Outreach Committee, to present a new project proposal: HOPE-A-THON Video Game challenge for students, rooted in the Seven Heavenly Virtues.

- Competition open to middle and high school students
- CHALLENGE: Design wholesome game for elementary-age based / rooted in the Seven Heavenly Virtues
- Open to individuals or Teams up to four (4) members
- HNC will host games for up to one (1) year and will maintain the rights to the games
- Heavy duty outreach
- HOPE-A-THON HAWAII
- Goal: To foster positive messages “speaking their language”
- There will be resources available to participants.
- Looking at website hosting
- Looking at securing sponsors

- Not certain on max capacity at this time
- Timing: Launch contest in summer, Students enter in August, Judging in December (HNC Gym has been secured for first weekend in December)
- HNS students to be a part of this project (logo design, testing, etc.)
- Working with Sam Kimsey (HNS contractor / Computational Thinkers), her husband will be a judge.

Seeking for support and resources for this project to include, not limited to:

- Refreshments
- Media contacts
- Sponsors
- Music (for use in games)
- Theological base -3 judges
- IT judge
- HNS Parents –for usability

Need to foster good environment:

- Vet participants
 - No disruptors
 - No bullying

Vestry: All excited about this, very supportive. Need to ensure it is student's work (not parents). Suggested reaching out to (local) tech and gaming bloggers for promotion and potential judges.

#2

R. Libby: As this is the first meeting of the new Vestry (year), we need to vote in a Clerk and a Treasurer. Proposed:

Treasurer: Jean Steele

Clerk: Nina Livingston

MOTION: Lila, I move that Jean Steele be appointed as Treasurer.

Rich seconded.

Motion unanimously passed.

MOTION: Rich, I move to appoint Nina as Clerk for 2021.

Ed: Second

Motion unanimously passed.

R Libby:

Grateful for extra time tonight. "Boulders up and over the hill tonight."

Tomorrow night service is in-person at 6:30 p.m.

Blessings to all for Holy Lent!

Meeting concluded at 7:50 p.m.