



St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Davidson, NC

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL VESTRY MEETING ON MAY 25, 2020

ATTENDANCE

<i>Vestry Members in Attendance</i>	<i>Also in Attendance</i>
Kelly Ross, Senior Warden	
Alf Badgett, Junior Warden	
Stephanie Amadio	
Bob Beckham	
Mike Kingsley	
Greg Knudson	
Mary Kennedy	
Martin McCoy	
Jenny Myers	
Skip Notte	
Alex Slawson	
	<i>Clergy</i>
	Rev. Carmen Germino <i>Rector</i>
	Rev. Kevin Lloyd <i>Assoc. Rector & Davidson College Episcopal Campus Minister</i>
	<i>Others</i>
	<i>Unable to Attend</i>
	Leslie Urban <i>Treasurer</i>
	Joanna Clausen

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:05 p.m., Reverend Germino CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER. A QUORUM was present.

PRAYER

Reverend Germino invited members of the vestry to offer prayer requests, and then opened the meeting in prayer.



INFORMATION

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 31, 2020 and May 11, 2020 vestry meetings, which were previously submitted for review, were approved without further addition or revision.

SPECIAL NEW BUSINESS

HOMELESS JESUS SCULPTURE PLACEMENT

The Outreach Committee has approved an additional site for placement of a future “Homeless Jesus” sculpture in Bogota, Colombia. Alf Badgett **MOVED** to authorize the commission and transport of a sculpture for this placement, Bob Beckham and others **SECONDED**. Rev. Germino opened the topic for discussion. Kelly Ross inquired as to what the typical installation cost would be; Martin McCoy responded that the installation cost is borne by the recipient and is dependent upon various factors. Michael Kingsley asked if there was available a list of existing *Homeless Jesus* sculptures; Rev. Germino responded that a map depicting placements exists on the St. Alban’s web site but likely requires updating. (Martin McCoy commented that he believes there are 18 or 19 statues presently placed.) A vote was called and the motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

APPROPRIATION FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Rev. Germino briefed the vestry concerning an outreach opportunity to assist ten local families (affiliated with *La Escuelita*) in critical need who have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and related shutdown.

Rev. Germino reported that Pat Shaw – Director of *La Escuelita* – assisted with an application on behalf of these families for a grant through the Davidson Community Foundation (“DCF”); which has been approved, on a “matching” basis for a comparable gift from St. Alban’s. Specifically, DCF has offered to “match” an outreach grant by St. Alban’s (via *La Escuelita*) in an amount necessary to cover one month’s worth of rent, utilities, food, and other critical-need expense for these families. (If St. Alban’s sponsors one month’s worth of expenses through a grant; DCF would provide funding for a second month’s worth.)

Rev. Germino indicated that the Outreach Committee has offered its endorsement for this appropriation, and invited a motion from the vestry. Kelly Ross **MOVED** to appropriate \$18,500 from the church’s cash reserves to *La Escuelita* for administration of these funds for the benefit of such families (with direct payment of bills or utilities, or acquisition of grocery food-stores). The motion was **SECONDED** by multiple vestry members, and discussion was opened. Mike Kingsley



asked about the projections for the financial well-being and health of *La Escuelita*; Martin McCoy responded that *LE Preschool* remains solvent, although that does not mean that cash reserves exist for the significant future (which has been consistent with the operation of *La Escuelita* for the past five years). Kelly Ross noted that ten members of the Outreach Committee expressed endorsement for this effort. A question was raised about whether funds were being appropriated out of governmental COVID-assistance loan money (they are not, as such funds must be used for express purposes) or out of an annual budget reserve or accumulated year-over-year reserves. Kelly Ross answered that the motion is to approve funds out of the cash reserves that have accumulated year-over-year. A vote was called, and the motion CARRIED unanimously.

Following the vote, Skip Notte asked a related question about the status of the Clergy Discretionary fund and whether it has been utilized during the pandemic; Rev. Germino responded that there have been some disbursements to date of grocery-store gift cards for *La Escuelita*-affiliated families in need.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Germino provided updates about the Diocesan phased plan to return to normal worship, and explained efforts she will be making to gauge the needs and desires of the church Reopening Task Force in connection with this planning.

Martin McCoy commented on the restrictiveness of the Diocesan guidelines, relative to existing government-issued guidelines, and in particular the 25-person cap on in-person worship gatherings (as opposed to a percentage of capacity); Rev. Germino acknowledged that the Diocese has worked hard to craft a uniform policy for all our state's churches. Discussion ensued.

Mike Kingsley inquired about viewership levels (and trends over time) of online worship; Rev. Germino reported that the Easter Sunday service had over 800 views, whereas an average is typically 300-500 over the past weeks.

DATE REMINDERS

Rev. Germino reminded the vestry of the Pentecost celebration at this Sunday's service, and especially mentioned that there will be a special musical prelude beginning ten minutes prior to service.

VPOD REMINDERS

There were no VPoD reminders necessary in light of the suspension of in-person worship services.



DISCUSSION

TREASURER'S REPORT

There was no Treasurer's Report this evening.

GOALS UPDATES

Rev. Germino provided one updated related to the church's priorities/goals:

+ Priority #3: Renewal of Evangelism.

Rev. Germino provided an update concerning a redeployment of the evangelism think-tank to deepening engagement in worship and beyond during the Stage One distancing protocols and beyond. Greg Knudson will be liaising with that group.

CLERGY UPDATES

- + Rev. Germino relayed that Joanna Clausen has asked for a leave of absence from the vestry and the Ministry Architects Renovation team; Rev. Germino expressed deep gratitude and appreciation for Joanna's work and hopeful anticipation for her return.
- + "Coffee with Carmen" will resume in June, with social-distance protocols in place: parishioners will bring their own coffee, and will have the opportunity to meet with Rev. Germino on Tuesdays and Thursdays at an appropriately-distanced setting on church grounds.
- + Rev. Lloyd reported that Liam Barr was approved for an internship (the next step in his discernment process toward ordination), at a location to be assigned by the Bishop at a future time. The internship will be six months in length.
- + Rev. Lloyd reported that no decision has yet been made by Davidson College regarding the resumption of on-campus learning for the fall semester — Rev. Lloyd noted that a growing number of schools have decide to resume in-person classes, with classes starting earlier than usual, foregoing Fall Break, and concluding prior to Thanksgiving.



WARDEN UPDATES

Junior Warden Alf Badgett made the following reports:

- ✦ Elaine Carman and Allison Taylor are currently filling as interim cochairs for the Outreach Committee, spelling Vivian Rodgers Cannon.
- ✦ There will be a coming-home parade for three-year-old Mason, of *La Escuelita*, who will be coming home from a hospitalization for cancer-related surgery, on May 27, 2020..

Senior Warden Kelly Ross made the following reports:

- ✦ Mr. Ross expressed gratitude to Martin McCoy and Pat Shaw for catalyzing the church's involvement in this evening's outreach appropriation (Mr. McCoy deflected the recognition to Pat Shaw and Ellen Donaldson)

COMMITTEE / LIAISON UPDATES: ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

- ✦ Jenny Myers presented a request from the current board of St. Alban's Preschool to authorize extension of their tenure for an additional calendar year to stabilize the transition and return to in-classroom learning as the pandemic subsides (two board members would otherwise be rotating off this year, Liz Kroger and Ann Todd). Ms. Myers MOVED for a one-year exception to the bylaws concerning term limits to allow Liz Kroger and Ann Todd . Kelly Ross SECONDED. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

CLOSING

Rev. Germino closed the meeting with the prayer, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Mr. Ross noted that, pending any urgent business arising, this meeting will count as the June meeting of the vestry, and the next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Anderson
Clerk of the Vestry