

Minutes of the Vestry Retreat
February 18-19, 2017

In attendance: Mo. Susan, Scott Armstrong, Katy Allen, Alan Giles, Jackie Ingersoll, Alice Moss, Rob Redmer, Norma Ross, Paula Somerville, Karol Sprague, Roy Waters and Justin Wojas. Absent: Richard Kenefic.

The Vestry retreat began Friday with a wonderful dinner at Alice Moss's home in Birmingham. The business and training portion continued on Saturday at St. Stephens from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 pm..

On Saturday we began with Morning Prayer. Next Wardens and clerk were selected. Alice Moss is senior warden, Rob Redmer junior warden, and Karol Sprague clerk.

Mo. Susan instructed the group on St. Stephen's procedures (the "Cheat Sheet") and reviewed the Vestry Covenant and the Mutual Ministry Review. The Vestry members' role as liaisons between parishioners, staff and clergy was discussed. Anonymous complaints will be discouraged. Vestry will encourage direct discussion, and whenever possible connect a concerned parishioner with staff members to clear up misunderstandings and differences.

Members chose dates to lead opening prayer and contribute to The Witness. Suggestions were given for monthly Mission Topics. (See attachment)

Mo. Susan reminded us that the Covenant of Call between herself and the Vestry has not been updated annually in her tenure, as directed by our By-Laws.

There was discussion on inclusion of a scripture lesson at each vestry meeting. It was decided that 5 to 6 minutes would be allotted for opening prayer and compline. No lengthy Bible Study. Mo. Susan will be available to help structure these vestry led lessons and prayers.

We passed a sheet to be sure emails and phone numbers are up-to-date. (See attachment)

Katy reminded us that Life Touch will be coming April 23, 24, 25. She and Ken Fuhr are chairing the new photo book. It will require very little administrative work from the church.

Jannel Glennie conducted a workshop on leadership styles. All had taken an online survey prior to the meeting, which Jannel had scored for us. We learned about our own style and reviewed the strengths and excesses of each.

The last segment of the retreat was a discussion on moving forward.

- There are concerns about our membership numbers.
- “Take the temperature of the church”
- Talk face- to- face to parishioners to learn their wishes and stars.
- Bring energy, not doubt to conversations.
- Benchmarks, goals, and objectives need to be articulated.

The retreat was concluded at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Karol Sprague, Clerk