SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VESTRY ALL SAINTS CHURCH, PASADENA January 12, 2025

- PRESENT Blaine Cavena, Connie Chung, Rainer Colombo, Barbara Andrade DuBransky, Elisabeth Eilers, Chris Folz, Nicole Gatto, Al Hughes, Cruz Jackson, Cathy Keig, Walter Little, Dan McCarrel, Karen Meier, Janet Carol Norton, Gloria Pitzer, Billie Rainer, Andie Reid, Tim Rich, Erica Tamblyn, Monique Thomas, Lorynne Young
- EXCUSED Greg Adams, Jonathan Berry, Bill Gould, Tony Jackson, Eliza LeMoine
- ALSO PRESENT Amanda Baughman, Mark Chase, Thomas Diaz, Melissa Hayes, Keith Holeman, Sarah Nolan, Susan Russell, Verna Zamora, Kathy Onoye

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Tim Rich. The purpose of the meeting was to update the vestry on All Saints' response to the fires. He spoke about the importance for All Saints to have the sustained leadership of each member of the vestry, and stressed the importance of efforts being synchronized, as well as all being on the same page with communication.

The vestry did a pastoral check in.

Rich gave an overview of this morning's 9:00 a.m. Forum. He appreciated the staff for stepping in during this emergency. People are appreciating the effort. We have moved from being a shelter to a drop-in and resource center. We are discerning what we can do in a sustainable way and are redirecting some resources. A Steering Committee of Tim Rich, Susan Russell, Mark Chase, Sarah Nolan, Thomas Diaz, Verna Zamora, Amanda McCormick, Amanda Baughman, Keith Holeman, and Nancy Naecker is making decisions on a daily basis. Rich has become aware of the dynamic between Altadena and Pasadena as it's overlaid with race, and will ask RJAB to weigh in about continuing response. We also need to solicit input from those with lived experiences, the BIPOC communities, the Latino community or Spanish speakers, and people who live in Altadena. More attention needs to be paid in the long term to volunteer crisis training to help interactions be good for all parties.

Diaz shared that pastoral calls to parishioners in the affected areas have begun, starting with Altadena and then moving on to those in North Sierra Madre and North Pasadena. More callers are needed. These are courtesy check ins to learn how people are. We want to bring them together to share a warm meal. The logistics of that are being worked out. The next need is for volunteers to shepherd fire victims through the process of getting the resources available to them. He asked the vestry to be open to taking on this role for a family if asked. Lastly, we are discerning how All Saints can continue to provide community, not only for those who lost their homes but also for others who have been traumatized by the magnitude of this disaster. Thomas will attend the Grief and Loss group this week when Folz needs to be absent. People are reaching out to offer their services and a list of therapists is being compiled. Several groups led by professionals will be offered soon. Gatto shared that we need to also be able to share resources from outside of ASC like public health information.

Nolan gave an update on donations. We are discouraging donations at this point because storage is an issue. We need to move from being a distribution hub into recovery support. We are focused now on getting what we have out into the community, to organizations where it can be better distributed. We need people to help make these deliveries. At this point, money and gift cards are very useful. We can offer our facility for services. Cathy Keig, Scott Heringer, and Maddie Gavel-Briggs will be meeting to organize big picture on volunteering and resources.

Holeman shared that we have a button on the website for donations to the fire relief fund. There will be e-blast updates to the parish every other day. The website homepage is a resource center. We are here to support people who want to be in community.

Chase shared that almost 400 black families have lost their homes. [Update: that number is now more than 600]

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. with a closing prayer by Mark Chase.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Onoye