

**VESTRY MEETING – 3 FEBRUARY 2020, 19.30**  
**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

---

Present: Mike Breton, Bill Bythell (Senior Warden), Nick Fern (Junior Warden), Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Susan Downhill, Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet, Nadia Molenstra  
Staff: Fiona White.  
Also present: Roderick Abbott

1. Nadia Molenstra opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absence:** Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate)
  - 2.1. **Resignation accepted:** Michael Smets-Tolley has resigned from the Vestry on health grounds. His resignation was accepted with regrets and many thanks for his service, but with best wishes for a good recovery.
3. **Approval of minutes** The minutes of the January Vestry meeting were accepted.
4. **ASBL:** On short notice, a discussion was held on the ASBL. A quorum was reached with 4 of the 7 members present (Susan Downhill, Roderick Abbott, Nadia Molenstra and Bill Bythell). Roderick said that the ASBL was badly out of sync and needs correcting immediately. Susan Downhill suggested that it should be agreed as to what is important and then that would be made official at the meeting on 9 February, prior to the church's annual general meeting. Sunny Hallanan pointed out that it had been publicly announced that the ASBL will happen on 9 February but not within the AGM. Roderick said that a properly constituted meeting with a minimum of 4 members should be held to elect a new board of 3 or 4 board members (president, secretary, treasurer and maybe a 4th, like an accountant) and to publish the minutes. In previous years, all Vestry members were members of the ASBL. They can be of any nationality but must be resident in Belgium. Members' names are not published. All Vestry members present agreed to be members (i.e. Nick Fern, Gabrielle Conforti-Quinet, Susan Downhill, Nadia Molenstra, Mike Breton and Bill Bythell) with the addition of Roderick Abbott. More members might be found at the meeting on 9 February. Roderick will write half a page of notes on members' responsibilities and half a page on board members' responsibilities, which will go out with the eBlast on 6 February. It was agreed that Nick will be president, Nadia treasurer and Roderick secretary. Mike Breton is going to check that the church's civil responsibility covers the ASBL. The minutes need to go to the Tribunal du commerce in Nivelles, and publication and notification has to be done in a certain way. There will be one meeting each year to discuss the ASBL accounts and budget. Mike said that the ASBL receives money and pays the property tax and the insurance on the vehicles. Bill said that the ASBL pays a *tax compostoire* so that there is no inheritance tax. Sunny reported that Jack McDonald and Jo Jan Vandenhede, who went to a meeting last week to learn more about ASBLs, should provide more information to ASC.  
Roderick Abbott then left the meeting.
5. **Vestry check-in:** As Nadia is leaving the Vestry after 6 years and Susan is up for re-election, both were asked to share their reflections on being members. Nadia said that she had had no idea that the Vestry had such a say in the way the church is run and thought that very refreshing. Sunny and others said that they had enjoyed getting to know her and although found her a quiet member, she had come up with some good points. Susan had found it an unexpected

honor to be asked to be on the Vestry but had been cautious about taking on more commitment with her busy job. The current Vestry is very different to the previous one she was one pre 9/11. Then there was a lot of disagreement. The current atmosphere is much easier to work with. Bill said he was very appreciative of what she had done and Gabrielle appreciated her concise responses.

**6. Discernment committee report:** The report had been circulated prior to the Vestry meeting. The meeting voted unanimously to endorse George Staelens to go forward to the ordination process following the recommendation of his discernment committee. A statement of this decision will be signed by all Vestry members present and sent to the bishop.

**7. Ministry and committee reports:**

**7.1. Finance & property**

- a. Mike presented the accounts for 2019 and the budget for 2020. The accounts showed a small surplus of €340.19. The income shown (€138,660.16) includes the money for St Esprit Mons, which passes through our accounts for them. The Vestry accepted the budget.
- b. There was a discussion about money for Sunny's sabbatical (which hasn't been included in the 2020 budget). The money would be made available.
- c. The lease has been signed for the new tenant in the studio apartment. Francy Dasso, brother of Elsy Dasso, will move in on 10 February. The bank guarantee still needs to be set up.
- d. Two basins have been fitted, one in the studio apartment and one in the large apartment. Money for the one in the studio apartment will be deducted from the previous tenant's bank guarantee.
- e. A problem with the main extractor fan, probably in the roof above the large apartment, still needs to be fixed.
- f. Sunny has done all the painting in the large apartment so far, and was congratulated for doing a fantastic job. More painting and cleaning is needed and other volunteers should help. The *etat de lieux* should be taking place on 20 February. Mike will find out if the new tenants will be using a lift for their furniture. If so, the Norwegians' safe can be removed that way.
- g. ASC's old church, Notre Dame d'Argentueil, is up for rent and sale. Rental is set at €2,500 per month; no sale price has been advertised.

**7.2. Christian education**

- a. Susan said that she had nothing to report. Michael Smets-Tolley is preparing the report for the AGM.
- b. Sunny said that Sunday School schedule and classes had been planned by her and Katie Osweiler up until the summer break.

**7.3. Fellowship**

- a. Gabrielle reported that the next event is Mardi Gras on 23 February and pancakes will be served.
- b. The meeting was reminded that pot luck finger food is required for prior/during the AGM on 9 February.

**7.4. Outreach/Mission**

a. Donations are being collected for the Australian fire relief during both January and February.

**8. Other business:**

**8.1 Safeguarding:** There are still Vestry members and Sunday School teachers who have not yet completed the necessary courses.

**8.2 ASBL update:** See above.

**8.3 AGM plans and Vestry candidates:** We still need one more candidate for Vestry.

Nick Fern agreed to prepare the climate program he suggested last month for the meeting on Sunday.

**9. Rector's report:**

Sunny reminded the meeting that it was in December 2018 that Vestry endorsed Balthazar Nahimana for ordination. Bishop Whalon met with him and approved the idea. All seemed in order, except that subsequently there has not been follow-up with COMB or Balthazar. It has now been discovered that no file on Balthazar can be found in the cathedral office. Sunny is putting together what files she has and Vestry were asked to re-sign the endorsement for postulant for ordination form.

Pledge cards went out and a few have so far come back.

Sunny has not made a decision on her sabbatical but is getting closer. She is interested in learning more about church planting. There is a conference coming up on the subject and Bishop Mark is getting a grant for her to go.

**10. Closing prayer:** Nadia closed with a prayer and the meeting adjourned at 21.55.