

Minutes of All-Parish Meeting  
Sunday, November 17, 2013  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was opened with prayer by Ernie Ashcroft at 9:41 am..

**Present:** Rector Ernie Ashcroft; Senior Warden Phil Vander Haar; Junior Warden Shannon Erickson; Treasurer Dave Leick; Clerk Catherine Jacobson; elected vestry members Paul Fisher, Catherine Harrington, and Jim Westcott; staff members Dana Fath Strande and George Ham; and approximately 50 members of the congregation.

**Introduction:** Blane Huppert noted that 2013 has been a year of renewal – renewal of our facilities via the capital campaign, of our staff with Ernie’s sabbatical and Dana’s and George’s continued discernment, and of our faith (e.g., as we listened to different voices from the pulpit). It has also been a year of continuation of our financial stability; this will be our fourth year in a row with a balanced budget – a testament to the generosity of the congregation and good judgment of the vestry.

**Presentation:** Dave presented our current financial situation. Our budgeted income for 2013 was \$307,500; Dave estimates we’ll receive \$303,000. Our budgeted expenses for 2013 were \$307,500; Dave estimates we’ll end up at \$303,000. We had decreased the utilities expenses line item due to expected savings as a result of our capital improvements; we are coming in even lower than budgeted. Sunday morning expenses are higher than budgeted. Dave reiterated that he expects we’ll end 2013 with income balancing expenses.

In terms of our 2014 expenses, our street assessment will be paid in full, so that line item will be disappearing, and we expect even more savings on the utilities line item. However, some line items will be increasing. We need to provide increases in staff salaries. We want to increase the maintenance line item so that we maintain the gains of the capital campaign and do not end up in the situation we were in before the capital campaign. We also want increases in the parish Inreach and Outreach line items. Lastly, our income crossed the \$300,000 threshold in 2012, so our Diocesan Fair Share rate will increase from 11% to 13%. Because of a small increase in income, we are now facing a \$6500 increase in our Diocesan Fair Share. Overall, we’re expecting \$319,000 in expenses. Therefore, for 2014 we will need an increase of \$18,100 in pledge income.

Blane said that we’re in this unique situation because we’re growing. We have much to be thankful for at Christ Church (including the fact that the capital campaign is ending), and he encouraged us to give from a place a joy. We are a diverse community growing in faith.

The draft 2014 budget has \$319,000 in expenses, with \$296,000 coming from stewardship. That’s an increase in stewardship of \$18,100 vs the. 2013 budget. The Stewardship ministry team is therefore asking parishioners to consider a \$200 increase in their annual pledges, or just \$4 a week. Blane acknowledged that not everyone is in a position to give in 2014 as they have in 2013, so he asked that we give more if we can.

**Questions:** During a question-and-answer period, Shannon noted that we are no longer receiving donations of the main course for Loaves & Fishes meals.

A parishioner asked if there had been any discussion of setting aside funds each year for larger capital improvements and/or maintenance. Dave responded that it has not been discussed, but he has wondered if we should set aside some of the capital campaign funds for such a purpose. Blane said that we have not been in a financial situation to set aside money annually.

A parishioner asked if there will be a future step increase in our Diocesan Fair Share. Ernie said no and explained the formula: parishes with income <\$300,000 pay 11% of their income, while parishes with income >\$300,000 pay 13% of their income (not 13% of the amount over \$300,000). It was noted that the Diocesan Fair Share helps parishes in need. Blane added that it also helps us, e.g., by supporting the bishop's staff.

Blane thanked Caryl Davis and Charlene Peterson for their work on the Stewardship ministry team.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:03 am. Caryl handed pledge cards out to parishioners as they left the meeting.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk