

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting  
Monday, May 20, 2013  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Phil Vander Haar.

**Present:** Senior Warden Phil Vander Haar; Junior Warden Shannon Erickson; Treasurer Dave Leick; Clerk Catherine Jacobson; elected vestry members Paul Fisher, Greg Guffey, Catherine Harrington, Charlene Peterson, Dan Shoemaker, Susan Vold, and Jim Westcott; guest Jamie Mair

**Absent:** Rector Ernie Ashcroft; elected vestry members Jan Pereyra and Kathryn Pratt

**Prayer and study:** We read John 16:12-15 (in which Jesus talks about when the Spirit of Truth comes) using Gospel-based discipleship and three different translations of the text. After the first reading we asked ourselves, “What word or phrase struck me?” After the second reading we asked, “What is Jesus saying to me or to the church?” After the third reading we asked, “What is Jesus calling me or the church to do?”

**Approval of the agenda:** Paul moved that the agenda be approved. Motion seconded and carried.

**Approval of vestry minutes:** Susan moved that the minutes of the April 15th regular vestry meeting be approved. Motion seconded and carried.

**Welcome new vestry member:** Although Kathryn was not able to be present at the meeting, Phil welcomed her in absentia. He asked that vestry members think about what would be the best ministry team for her.

**Fall mission workshop with Dwight Zscheile:** Jamie said that author, professor, nationally known speaker, and priest Dwight Zscheile will be leading a session with our church ~9 am to 2 pm on November 2. The session will be open to the parish; the vestry, the leadership team, and the strategic planning team are especially encouraged to come. Dwight will be talking about missional leadership, which encourages churches to look at their mission. The session will also include discussion on what it means to be a church in this age. We will be reimagining how we will move forward. The Sunday morning Adult Forum would be a good time and place to do the preparation work that Dwight is suggesting (Jamie will coordinate this) and to disseminate the learnings from the November 2nd session. Phil reminded vestry members that we will be discussing Dwight’s book *People of the Way* after the June vestry meeting; additional discussions could take place among parishioners. Phil will invite Jamie, George Ham, Dana Fath Strande, and others from the Strategic Planning team to join us at the June book discussion. It was also noted that the cost for having Dwight lead this session and the cost of several copies of his book were paid for with money from the Lilly Grant.

**Finance report:** Dave presented the treasurer's report for April 2013 and the balance sheet for April 2013. There were several items of note. Monthly stewardship income was down a little this month, to ~\$20,200. Utilities is running a little higher vs. last year; "the winter that didn't end" likely contributed to the increase. The rector's professional development line item is for a retreat that Ernie would like Dana Fath Strande to attend this summer; Dana is also taking a class, the cost of which is shown in the Parish Life Minister professional development line item. We made a quarterly bonus payment to Dana to offset her family's cost in getting its health insurance through her husband's employer rather than through us. Last month the income for the Seder Meal showed up on the Hospitality line item; this month expenses for the Seder Meal and coffee hour came through. The music expense for the month was for piano tuning and a supply musician. Total expenses for the month were ~\$25,500, giving us a deficit for the month of ~\$5300. We have a year-to-date surplus of ~\$15,100. Our cash position remains strong, with much of the balance of our checking account being money from the Lilly Grant, as represented in the Transmittal Fund line item. Dave said that he had reconsidered having a separate fund for sabbatical expenses and decided against it, since the fund would exist for only a year. Our savings account is holding money from the capital campaign, as shown in the Building Fund line item. We have updated values for our endowment funds. The Flower Fund has a negative balance; there was a brief discussion among the vestry about the flowers, but Shannon said that Ernie asked that we not make any changes until he returns from sabbatical. Dave said that he had made a diocesan fair share payment in May, but he will wait until the summer is over before making any more payments to ensure that we have sufficient cash on hand. Dan brought up the potential need to file an annual report for the Monson Fund; he will investigate and report back to the vestry next month. The vestry received the treasurer's report.

**Update on sabbatical activities:** Phil said that the Reverend Lydia Huttar Brown led a virtual tour of Iona on Saturday; it went well, and more than 20 people attended. The stone soup gathering was cancelled due to low attendance; it needed to have been better promoted. On June 7 the Faith in Film group will be showing *The Way* as a kickoff to each person's walking pilgrimage. The Reverend Jerry Doherty will be officiating the next couple of weeks.

**George Ham's application for ordination:** Phil passed around George's application for ordination. Vestry members signed it, certifying that we support George's admission to the Sacred Order of Deacons.

**Update to Safe Church Policy:** Phil said that Dana Fath Strande is taking a training session so that she can be a trainer for the adult protection portion of Safe Church. She will be offering training on this portion in the fall. Vestry members, employees, and lay Eucharistic visitors will be required to take this training.

### **Ministry team reports:**

Building & Grounds: Jim said that the team has been very busy. A big issue for the team is the need to get more people involved in the care and upkeep of the building and grounds. The vestry had a lengthy discussion about the needs and possible ways to bring people in to this group. Jim will talk with Rodger Pereyra and Pierre LePere about how

to include and transition to new people in this group. Vestry members will think about who might be approached to serve on this team.

Communication & Marketing: Greg said part of the functionality of the church website is gone. He cannot add new content or edit existing content. Other mechanisms of disseminating information to parishioners are working well, but a non-functional website impacts potential visitors.

Faith Formation: Charlene encouraged vestry members to attend the Alpha dinner and course.

Finance & Legal: None

Outreach: Catherine H. said that she is working with George Ham on restarting and recharging the Outreach team. They have put together some basic definitions and goals. Their next step is to call together a meeting of people interested in Outreach. Catherine H. shared with the vestry the notes she and George have put together; the vestry was supportive of this document. Shannon said that Denny Davis had told her that the Backstreet Grill has been sold; this Wednesday will be the last day they donate the main course that we serve at Loaves & Fishes. Phil and Shannon will write the owner to thank him for his years of support. Denny plans to approach Second Harvest to see if they will provide the main course for us in the future. Shannon wanted to ensure that the vestry is still supportive of our involvement in the Loaves & Fishes ministry; the vestry is supportive.

Pastoral Care: None

Small Group Ministries: None

Stewardship: None

Strategic Planning: None

Welcoming & Evangelism: Paul said that Nancy had called someone who had not come to church for several Sundays. That person said that he or she was not coming back because he or she had never felt so alone. The vestry was saddened to hear this.

Worship & Music: None

**Junior warden's report:** None.

**Senior warden's report:** Phil said that it would be nice for the Dire Need Fund to not be an empty cupboard when Ernie returns. Because June has five Sundays, the vestry discussed the possibility of having a special plea for contributions to the Dire Need Fund on the fifth Sunday. Phil said that they would discuss that at the staff meeting. Phil noted that things seem to be going well on Sundays.

**Final review:** Catherine J. reviewed our action items:

- Phil asked that vestry members think about what would be the best ministry team for Kathryn.
- Phil will invite Jamie, George Ham, Dana Fath Strande, and others from the Strategic Planning team to join us at the June book discussion.
- Dan will investigate whether we need to file an annual report for the Monson Fund and report back to the vestry next month.
- Jim will talk with Rodger Pereyra and Pierre LePere about how to include and transition to new people on the Building and Grounds team.
- Vestry members will think about who might be approached to serve on the Building and Grounds team.
- Vestry members are encouraged to attend the Alpha dinner and course.
- Phil and Shannon will write the owner of the Backstreet Grill to thank him for his years of support of our ministry to Loaves & Fishes.
- Phil will bring up at the staff meeting whether we should have a special plea for contributions to the Dire Need Fund on the fifth Sunday in June.

**Adjournment:** Phil closed the meeting with prayer at 8:59 pm.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk