

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Monday, September 16, 2013
Christ Episcopal Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Ernie Ashcroft.

Present: Rector Ernie Ashcroft; Senior Warden Phil Vander Haar; Junior Warden Shannon Erickson; Clerk Catherine Jacobson; elected vestry members Greg Guffey, Charlene Peterson, Kathryn Pratt, Dan Shoemaker, Susan Vold, and Jim Westcott

Absent: Treasurer Dave Leick; elected vestry members Paul Fisher, Catherine Harrington, and Jan Pereyra

Prayer and study: We read Luke 16:1-15 (in which a crooked manager is praised by his master, and Jesus teaches that we cannot serve two masters) 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: Kathryn moved that the agenda be approved. Motion seconded and carried.

Approval of vestry minutes: Shannon moved that the minutes of the August 16th regular vestry meeting be approved, with an edit to clarify that \$12,000 of capital campaign funds are to be used for Section 1 and 2 of the rain garden. Motion seconded and carried. Catherine J. will send the revised minutes to the vestry.

Finance report: Phil presented the treasurer’s report for August 2013 and the balance sheet for August 2013. There were several items of note. Most people are up-to-date on their pledges, but the parish receives a lot of pledge income in December. For the year, we have a deficit of ~\$1300. However, the Lilly Grant will pay for some of Linda Deaver’s extra time (~\$1400), so we are effectively even, though we are not up-to-date on our Diocesan Fair Share. The checking account balance is down, as we have spent some Lilly Grant money to reimburse Ernie for his sabbatical expenses. Though the savings account shows ~\$46,600, that number is now lower, because the boiler has now been paid for.

Rain garden project update: Phil said that we have signed contracts and work orders for the rain garden, and we expect the work to start soon. We have learned that we must keep the rain garden for 20 years, but there is no language in the contract regarding consequences for not doing so. Given a determination of low risk, the Executive Committee and Capital Campaign Committee decided to proceed.

The current path from the parking lot to the upper level must be replaced. We have a quote for putting in some stairs, but to do so will require moving some outside lights, and that quote was higher than expected.

Susan moved that the vestry authorize the Capital Campaign Committee to reallocate funds to complete the outside stairs from the parking lot to the upper level and lighting. Motion seconded and carried. Phil will communicate the motion to the Capital Campaign Committee.

Phil also noted that Greig Metzger has resigned from the Capital Campaign Committee because of his new job and other responsibilities.

Sunday morning liturgical assistants: Ernie noted that there have been some difficulties with liturgical assistants (acolytes, lay Eucharistic ministers, lectors, etc.) not coming on a Sunday morning that they've been scheduled to serve, not finding a replacement, and not letting anyone know that they would be absent. The resulting scurrying to find a last-minute replacement does not look good to parishioners or visitors. Ernie will meet with the leaders of each liturgical ministry team to discuss this problem. He will draft a letter to all who serve emphasizing how important it is that they be present when scheduled, find a replacement if they can't serve, and letting him or George Ham know if they cannot find a replacement.

Same-sex marriage: Ernie has received a letter from the diocese indicating that, in the wake of Minnesota's passing a law to allow same-sex marriage, there is no diocesan-wide policy. Each congregation should discuss and decide how they want to respond. Ernie proposes that he offer a Wednesday night series this fall in which same-sex marriage will be discussed in the context of how we live together as a community when we don't necessarily agree on all of the issues, and how we make decisions on divisive matters. Vestry members are encouraged to attend and to encourage others to come. The first discussion will be on October 9.

Ministry team reports:

Building & Grounds: The vestry has received from the team a list of what the team does; now we need to decide on who will do the work. Jim will resend the list of tasks to Ernie, Phil, Shannon, and Catherine J. Ernie will lead a discussion regarding tasks that ought not to be done by volunteers.

Communication & Marketing: None

Faith Formation: Charlene said that the team met last Thursday. We won't be holding an Advent or Lenten retreat this year. Instead the team will support Dwight Zscheile's workshop on November 16 and follow-up events.

Finance & Legal: None

Outreach: None

Pastoral Care: None

Small Group Ministries: None

Stewardship: None

Strategic Planning: None

Welcoming & Evangelism: None

Worship & Music: None

Kathryn has rewritten the parish ministry pamphlet. She needs to confirm the contact people for ministries. Vestry members were asked to look at her draft, let her know of any changes in contacts, and provide comments on their sections.

Junior warden's report: None

Senior warden's report: In response to Phil's question, vestry members responded that they feel that Sunday morning announcements are going well.

Rector's report: Ernie said that he did a newcomer orientation class yesterday; 13 people attended. He expects the majority of those to join. He'll be welcoming people over the next two Sundays. The parish will be meeting with Dwight Zscheile on November 16 from 9 am to 2 pm. This will be a really important meeting for the church. Ernie encouraged vestry members to make this meeting a priority. The morning will be of general interest to all parishioners, while the afternoon will be especially important for the parish leadership.

Final review: Catherine J. reviewed our action items:

- Catherine J. will send the revised June vestry minutes to vestry members.
- Phil will let the Capital Campaign Committee know that the vestry has authorized their reallocation of funds to complete the outside stairs from the parking lot to the upper level and lighting.
- Vestry members are encouraged to attend this fall's series on living together as a faith community when we don't agree on all of the issues and to encourage others to come.
- Jim will resend the list of tasks the Building & Grounds team does to Ernie, Phil, Shannon, and Catherine J.
- Ernie will lead a discussion regarding Building & Grounds tasks that ought not to be done by volunteers.
- Vestry members are asked to look at the draft parish ministry pamphlet, let Kathryn know of any changes in contacts, and provide comments on their sections.
- Ernie encouraged vestry members to make the November 16th meeting with Dwight Zscheile a priority.

Adjournment: Ernie closed the meeting with prayer at 8:41 pm.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk