

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Monday, January 20, 2014
Christ Episcopal Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ernie Ashcroft.

Present: Rector Ernie Ashcroft; Senior Warden Phil Vander Haar; Junior Warden Shannon Erickson; Treasurer Dave Leick; Clerk Michelle Rebholz; elected vestry members Catherine Harrington, Jan Pereyra, Charlene Peterson, Kathryn Pratt, and Dan Shoemaker.

Absent: Greg Guffey, Susan Vold (Paul Fisher and Jim Westcott have previously resigned their vestry positions.)

Prayer and study: Ernie led the group in prayer. We then read Matthew Chapter 18, verse 2, regarding Messengers from John the Baptist. We asked ourselves, “What word or phrase struck me?” “What is Jesus saying to me?” and “What is Jesus asking us to do?”

Approval of the agenda: Dave Leick asked that the stewardship results be discussed prior to the proposed budget for 2014. Kathryn moved that the agenda be approved. Motion seconded and carried.

Approval of vestry minutes: Kathryn noted that in the last sentence in the first paragraph under “Finance Report”, the “for” should be removed. Dan Shoemaker moved to approve the December 2013 minutes with the correction. Motion seconded and carried.

Year End Finance report: Dave reported \$42,000 in pledge income and the seasonal offering of \$3700, which was higher than expected. Resources for the year were at \$306,000. There was nothing too unusual under Expenses. Some maintenance expenses were incurred. Dave moved some items around between salary and bonuses for the Parish Life Minister, but everything is where it should be. Three months of expenses for the Diocesan Fair Share were paid. There is a surplus of almost \$1900 for the year. The capital campaign has \$40,000 and they will be able to start releasing projects. There has been very little drop off in the capital campaign contributions over the 3 year timeline. The vestry received the treasurer’s report.

Stewardship results: We have 101 pledges in for a total of \$282,619. There are about 8 pledges outstanding, for an estimated additional \$6,000. We may also receive money during the course of the year in new pledges as we receive new members.

Proposed Budget for 2014: Total resources are \$316,000. The maintenance expense line item is up slightly due to sound system maintenance, carpet cleaning, and garden maintenance. There is a new line item for technology maintenance. However, there is no street assessment and there are lower utility expenses due to the new boiler. There should be an update to decrease the expense for rector’s insurance by \$2,000, to \$11,160. The expense listed for the Diocesan Fair

Share reflects Christ Church's letter requesting one half of the increase (the Diocese wanted \$38,000).

After discussion, maintenance was increased to \$12,000, with the specific caveat that \$4000 would be for resurfacing the parking lot.

Changes to proposed budget: Pledge income now listed at \$291,700; Maintenance increased to \$12,000; Rector's insurance decreased to \$11,160. Phil moved to approve the 2014 budget; motion seconded and carried.

Annual Parish Meeting and Dinner, Arrangements: Ernie would like a good Vestry representation at the dinner. It will be an Italian meal. For the next day's Parish meeting, two coffee teams are assigned. Vestry members are encouraged to reach out and talk to all attending the annual meeting. Dave will present the results of the budget.

Space Study: Shannon did a storage space study of the building, to see where we could create space, move items, and use space better. For the first half of the year, there are two larger projects and some smaller projects. The first priority will be to work on the choir loft, sell the music and pews that are currently up there. With money from the sale, they may purchase chairs, an armoire, or other items needed up there. The second priority will be to work on the boardroom behind the sanctuary. There is a large table in there; some ideas are to replace that with a folding table and to create a space for George. There is also a huge space between the boardroom and sanctuary, and it is not clear what is in there. Shannon will get some teams together to work on these projects. Other smaller projects to work on are the stairwell closet behind the altar, and to contact St. Mary's Guild to discuss duplicate supplies. For the second half of the year, the team plans to reorganize the Narthex and consider new racks for nametags, reorganize the front of the sanctuary to achieve a better flow for traffic by the piano, and explore shelving in the storage room by the boiler.

It was requested that the pews should be offered to parish members first. Also, Shannon clarified that there were no plans to work on the Revelations and Genesis classrooms, nor were there plans for storage in the Fellowship Hall.

Vestry Orientation Date and National Church Program: Ernie previously circulated an e-mail about a webcast that would be helpful to vestry members. He suggested that for our February meeting, we view the webcast as a group and then have the vestry meeting. Ernie will follow up on the exact date of the webcast and getting it organized.

Ministry team reports:

Building & Grounds: None

Communication & Marketing: None.

Faith Formation: Charlene provided a written report. There are newcomer orientations scheduled in late January, a Shrove Tuesday dinner on Tuesday, March 4 to fund the next Mission/Immersion Trip; Dana will be gone January 24th-26th; we need to hire another person for Kids Klub on Wednesday nights; and plans are being made for summer programs.

Finance & Legal: None

Outreach: None

Pastoral Care: None

Small Group Ministries: None

Stewardship: None

Strategic Planning: None

Welcoming & Evangelism: None.

Worship & Music: None

Retiring Vestry Members' Reflections: Kathryn, Jan, and Charlene reflected on their time on the vestry. They discussed the experience as rewarding and expressed their thanks to Phil for stepping in while Ernie was on sabbatical. In addition, there was a recommendation to have pastoral care enhanced.

Junior warden's report: Shannon said that she did not have much to report aside from the Space Study. Being a Junior Warden went well, and many thanks to Phil for his leadership.

Senior warden's report: Phil expressed his confidence in the leadership at Christ Church; vestry members continue to be visible. On the agenda for the future is becoming prepared for the search process for a new rector. We should continue to follow up on the ideas in Dwight's presentations.

Rector's report: Ernie suggested that we do as much preparation for the upcoming search, especially in the second half of next year. We should ask where we are as a church and where do we want to go. We should plan to have a replacement within 6 months or less of Ernie leaving. The best gift would be a short period of time between Ernie's replacement and the new rector.

Final review: Michelle reviewed our action items:

- Dave will check with Pierre to see the percentage of cars parking in the lot due to MTC versus the church.
- Ernie will go through the list of folks that have reports for the parish meeting.
- Shannon will get some teams together to work on the projects identified from the space study, and send a written copy of her space study to Michelle.
- Ernie will check on the date of the vestry webcast, and organize our viewing it as a group.

Adjournment: Ernie closed the meeting with prayer at 8:45 pm.
Michelle Rebholz, Clerk