

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Monday, October 19, 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 Shannon Erickson, Junior Warden Dan Shoemaker, Clerk Michelle Rebholz, Treasurer John Potter; elected vestry members Catherine Harrington, Greg Guffey, David Waletzko, Mary Lee Isely, Matt Stiles, Sue Vold

Absent: Laura Niederhofler, Randy Pastorius, Jane Pederson

Prayer and study: Ernie led the group in prayer. The group read the Compline at pp. 127-135 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Approval of the agenda: Shannon moved that the agenda be approved; motion seconded and carried.

Approval of vestry minutes: David moved to approve the minutes; motion seconded and carried.

September Financial Statements: John presented the financial statements. The Treasurer's Report is tracking similarly to last year at this time; there is a surplus of \$5700. Three months (June, July, August) of MMS needs to be paid. This is relatively standard. The Balance Sheet should be closer to the general fund balance than last month. We are still awaiting a report on the Capital Campaign and building fund, which we should have by year end.

2015 Budget – First Look: John stated the proposed budget is the result of several conversations with Ernie, Dana, Chris, discussions with others, and some research. There was lots of conversation and thought put into the proposal by the staff and finance committee. Personnel expense really drives the budget. The Finance/Legal committee recommendation accounts for salary savings from Ernie retiring, additional salary to bring Dana to 100% full time, additional diocesan MMS, and a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA). The Committee estimates \$10,000 in rector search expenses, \$10,000 in moving expenses, increasing the worship minister position from 25% to 35%, supply priests and musicians, enhancing the music and altar guild budgets, change in snow plow service, and an across the board increase of 2% for all other spending.

There are two items the committee was not aware of when they put the budget together. First, there will be a 12% increase in maintenance service due to the minimum wage increase. Second, \$10,600 in pledge income will be lost next year (two pledge households passed away, and one moved). Ernie discussed how in past years, the difference between pledges and actual income is always very minor. We often end up with a small surplus at the end of the year. John stated that the proposed budget would be about 3% higher than 2014; pledges will need to increase by 4%.

There was also a discussion about the specific expenses related to Ernie's retirement and the search for a new rector. It may be more likely that the moving expenses would be incurred in early 2016, but vestry members preferred including it in the 2015 budget. It is also likely that the new rector's salary would be lower than Ernie's since a rector's salary is based on the number of years they have been ordained. The rector search expenses and moving expenses are one-time expenses. Next month, the vestry will look at the 2015 budget again.

Missional Assessment Process: Dave Leick met with the Diocese. The Diocese provides a consultant who meets with a small group from our Data Collection Committee for about six months. Then the project spreads to a larger group. Dave agrees this is the best way to proceed. The project will conclude in April and the group will have 2-3 months to draft the parish profile. The consultant will be helping the group explore what God is calling Christ Church to do. Vestry members agreed this is a good question to explore. Matt will keep the vestry informed.

Possible Intern for Christ Church: Cindi Brickson is in the process of becoming a priest. At no cost to the church, she will work 10 hours a week beginning in November. The purpose of her internship is for her to gain experience; she has quite a bit of experience in chaplain situations; she needs liturgical experience, experience in sermons, and experience in how churches function. The suggested project is for her to set up lay pastoral care. The Diocese and Ernie agree. Catherine moved to accept her as an intern; motion seconded and carried.

Rector's Round Table: Shannon stated that the MIP grant generated many ideas. There is between \$2,000-\$15,000 available for mission projects that must become sustainable. A community entity or another church must be a partner. Out of all the ideas, the one that has the most traction is for the youth group to help the White Earth Band start gardens. There is no limit to the number of grant requests we can make, but they are due by November 1.

Consent Agenda: In addition to the reports previously submitted, there was a comment that Faith Formation is leaderless. Mary Lee also stated that some of the duties in the Pastoral Care Committee belong in other committees. Sue moved to accept the consent agenda; motion seconded and carried.

Junior Warden's Report: No report.

Senior Warden's Report: No report other than SafeChurch is this Saturday.

Rector's Report: No additional report.

Recap of Decisions Made, Tasks Assigned, and Items Tabled: No additional items.

Adjournment: The meeting closed at 8:20 pm.

Michelle Rebholz, Clerk

Committee Reports For Oct 2014 Vestry meeting

Pastoral Care Committee (Mary Lee Isely)

Ernie continues to be the temporary head of the Pastoral Care Committee until the new deacon arrives. Because there isn't a person "officially" heading up this committee right now, a Christ Church family recently discussed with me the possibility of receiving a few frozen meals prepared by parishioners at some point in the future.

A parishioner's father has terminal cancer and the family members have been traveling several nights each week (after work) between their house and the loved one's home, leaving them little time to prepare meals. They don't want the parishioner-prepared meals right away, but indicated they might appreciate having them when their ill relative reaches the final weeks of his life.

At the moment, there is no one to organize the meals, but there appears to be time to line up volunteers. Shannon Erickson and Nancy Foreman have indicated there are parishioners who are willing to make the meals.

Faith Formation (Matt Stiles)

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Building and Grounds (Laura Niederhofler)

1. We have a snow plowing contract with Outdoor Lab for the coming snow season. This is the company that did the landscaping and parking lot work for us under the Watershed Grant. Our reasoning is that since they had the paver addition to the lot and new curbing installed, they will be the best ones to do the snow plowing and not damage the new improvements. They are going to use a special plowing blade to clear the paver portion of the lot so as not to cause damage.
2. We signed a new contract with the MTC. They can use up to 70 of the 87 total spaces. Depending on the MTC rider auto use, the MTC will pay up to 80% of the snow plowing costs and repair costs. As part of the contract, we can close the lot up to seven times a year for weddings, funerals, etc. by giving at least 48 hours notice. In the main West parking lot, we have put up Handicap Parking signs in four slots and have designated eight slots for Visitor parking. Christ Church members can certainly use the visitor spots for events like St. Mary's Guild if they need parking spaces.
3. The emergency lights in the lift have shorted out and are going to be replaced. (The existing lighting system was installed 5 years ago). Adjustments were made to the lift door and the lift seems to be in good working order now. (Total cost for light assembly and installation is \$328.00).

4. Snow plowing teams will be set up in the near future. The steps will not be cleared during the snow season. A path will be cleared from the parking lot to the lower entryway using the new paver pathway.

- Outside cleanup held: Cut down low branches over walkway and along south border, removed rocks from south berm, checked roof air handler belts and motors, brought up snow blower and gas powered leaf blower for winter.
- Service call on lift to replace emergency light, which had shorted out.
- Signed snow plowing contract with Outdoor Labs for the 2014 - 2015 season.
- Service call and inspection on lift [needed new emergency light in car], adjusted door on lower floor to prevent sticking. Put up new handicap parking sign in west lot.

Small Group Ministries (Sue Vold)

Communications (Greg Guffey)

No report.

Welcoming Committee (David Waletzko)

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Stewardship Committee (Randy Pastorius)

No report.

Outreach Committee (Catherine Harrington)

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