

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Monday, October 19, 2015
Christ Episcopal Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Senior Warden Dan Shoemaker.

Present: Senior Warden Dan Shoemaker, Junior Warden Catherine Harrington, Treasurer David Waletzko, Father Tom, elected vestry members James Elam, Mary Lee Isely, Laura Niederhofer, Jenny Burke, Jane Pederson, Nancy Thompson, Clerk Michelle Rebholz

Absent: Matt Stiles and Susan Vold

Approval of previous meeting minutes: Laura moved to approve the September minutes; motion seconded and carried.

Search Committee Update: Randy provided an update. The first interviews will be a phone call rather than Skype. Skype is dependent on good equipment. Right now the committee is fine tuning the scoring assessment. Two people will ask questions, and one will take notes. Each person scores the interview. There is a discussion over who on the search committee should be in the interview room; they have not made a final decision yet. Tomorrow night, Karen from the Diocese is coming to the meeting. They will get a list of applicants then. There is a discussion over the confidentiality of the application and interview process; they need confidentiality, but have to balance it with transparency. The committee will let the vestry know if they need anything before the next regular vestry meeting. The committee will probably spend the next two weeks going through resumes.

Transitional Priest Update: Tom stated that there was a Dire Need fund request and he is following up; he will take care of it when he has more information. There are also several baptisms coming up in November. Tom will not be here on Sunday, October 25; there will be a replacement priest. Cindi will be here on the 25th as well. She will also be preaching in November. Cindi will be finished in April and ordained in June.

The transitional priest is the pastor here until the new rector arrives. Ernie brought people together, but there are still interpersonal struggles that should be addressed. Each month, we should understand what it is we are looking for and what we want to be in five years. This would be a different discussion than the MAP process. Before each meeting, Tom will send something out in terms of a topic and have a healthy discussion. He will send something out for next month's meeting.

It is also okay to try new things during the transitional period. Ideas could come from anywhere—a parish member, the vestry, or other. Tom stated he is open to trying new ideas and implementing them. Tom will remind the parish he is in the office and available. Presence is important.

Parish-wide Communication Update

Dan asked how best to communicate helpful information to the parish. Tom stated that Sunday announcements are a great way to convey information. Information should also be added to the Good News, as people do read the paper and electronic versions. Tom is here Tuesday through Thursday, and out in the community some Fridays.

Facebook and the Woodbury Bulletin are two other ways to communicate about our church. Sue Vold had volunteered to be the communications liaison to the vestry but has resigned. Jenny offered to take over the position.

Music Update

We will defer a discussion of the organ until later in the transition. Fundraising for a new organ may be too difficult right now.

Financial Statements

David offered a summary of the financial statements. General Fund checking account has approximately \$25,000. There were several transactions. We are within \$3,000 of where we were in August. On the Treasurer's Report, there were a large amount of miscellaneous income and expenses. Pledges are \$4,000 short, but this is common compared to previous years. Building and Grounds is under budget and many other things are under budget. We are paid in full including October for MMS. There was a question about whether the church made its MMS payments in 2014; in a follow up e-mail, the Treasurer determined that we had.

2016 Preliminary Budget

The Finance Committee met last week. They took the baseline and expected pledges, and came up with an estimate. Known expenses are the secretary, music director, moving expenses. Estimated expenses were the new priest salary, a new parish life minister, and laptop. The numbers assume the new priest and PLM are here for all of 2016, but in reality, they will not be. In 2017, we will not have moving expenses. We could expect a 4-5% in pledges, perhaps.

Laura suggested that \$1100-1800 be allocated for mulch for the rain garden next spring. After discussion, it was generally thought that the vestry ensures the budget is within our means and we do not do a line by line review, but we could have a separate rain garden line item to prove we maintained it over the 20 years as required by the grant.

There was also discussion about whether to have a full time or part time PLM. We may not need a full-time PLM with a new priest.

There were no objections to the Finance Committee recommendations.

Good News/Website Update

These issues were previously discussed under Parish-wide Communication Update.

Stewardship Update

No new issues.

Consent Agenda

Accepted, with the update that Angel Tree is covered.

Clerk Update

Members discussed possible candidates for the clerk position in 2016. Catherine agreed to get in touch with them.

Ministry Fair Update

Vestry members stated that they really enjoyed it and would like it done every year. They also discussed having a pamphlet with contact info for each group at the church. Vestry members discussed other ways to make people aware of all the ministries/groups at church. One idea was for one booth each week at coffee hour, or displays around the church.

Other business

There was a general discussion about recruiting for new vestry members, delegates and a new junior warden.

Adjournment: Dan adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.