

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Monday, November 16, 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 Gehlsen, Nancy Thompson, Mary Lee Isely, Jenny Burke, Randy Pastorius, James Elam, Jane Pederson

Absent: Matt Stiles, Laura Neiderhofer

Search Committee Update: Randy provided an update. The search committee is still doing its work, reviewing applications, and keeping its options open. Currently they are conducting phone interviews and assessing the commitment level of the applicants.

Approval of agenda: no action.

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

Financial statements: David provided an update. The major expense was MMS payments but that is expected. There was a discussion about whether David should continue to provide the monthly reports to the vestry, or whether they would like the more current version, which would not be month end but would be up to date. David also provided a summary of pledges for 2016; they are where the stewardship committee thought they would be.

Rector Update

There is a Thanksgiving service and a Confirmation service December 15. Tom is working on the Christmas service and feels prepared. Advent is coming; Tom will do a wreath blessing with an explanation about where the wreath is coming from. He is leading an adult education session December 6 on Back to Basics, which will cover issues like the liturgical seasons, the colors used, and similar basic things people would like to know. There were baptisms last Sunday. Direct communication is key rather than triangulation.

There was discussion about what we are looking for in a rector. Presence may be one item. Tom has office hours in the morning and some in the afternoon. People should discuss the availability of clergy. Vestry members should think and pray about what they need. People can talk in small groups or one on one; we should reach out to parish members and ask what they are looking for. There is a program called Mutual Ministries, a non-threatening, low anxiety gathering and assessment. The Diocese has these materials. It is usually done on an annual basis, but when a church gets a new rector, the church may want to do it shortly after the rector begins, maybe 3 months. It is not scoring, but is more subjective.

Dan will ask Janine for a list of the interview questions. It was agreed that we should continue the strong line of communication, ask for feedback, and invite questions.

Junior Warden's Report

We are still seeking candidates for clerk, vestry, and Junior Warden.

Consent Agenda

There were no written committee reports, but Mary Lee did have a discussion with Father Tom about pastoral care. The new rector, once here, should be involved in pastoral care. During the transition, people should know who to call. Due to privacy requirements, if a parish member is hospitalized, they or their family needs to call the church. If someone from church calls asking for information, the hospital cannot give out any information.

Old Business

David received a letter from the Diocese about the church's new MMS totals. They are going up. The payments are about 13% of our 2014 revenue.

After the All Parish Meeting, there was a lot of discussion about the new Parish Life Minister (PLM) and whether the position should be 50% or full time. There has been no decision, just a listing of the money available to hire that person. Dana began as a part time PLM.

Also, the church needs a new wedding coordinator. There is a wedding scheduled in April. Tom and others have access to existing job descriptions; we will start with those for consideration.

Recap of decisions made, tasks assigned:

- Dan will ask Janine for interview questions.

Adjournment: Dan adjourned the meeting at 8:33 pm.