

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting  
Monday, December 16, 2013  
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 Catherine Jacobson; elected vestry members Greg Guffey, Catherine Harrington, Jan Pereyra, Charlene Peterson, Kathryn Pratt, Dan Shoemaker, and Susan Vold

**Absent:** None (As noted below, Paul Fisher and Jim Westcott had resigned their vestry positions.)

**Prayer and study:** Ernie led the group in prayer. We then read Luke 2:41-52 (in which the 12-year-old Jesus stays behind in the temple in Jerusalem) 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:** Catherine H. moved that the agenda be approved. Motion seconded and carried.

**Approval of vestry minutes:** Shannon moved that the minutes of the November 18th regular vestry meeting be approved. Motion seconded and carried. Catherine H. moved that the minutes of the November 17th all-parish meeting be approved. Motion seconded and carried.

**Finance report:** Dave presented the treasurer's report for November 2013 and the balance sheet for November 2013. There were several items of note. Pledge income was up considerably. November was a three-paycheck month, so expenses were high. The maintenance costs include \$416 per month for snow removal; we will be reimbursed for half of that by Metro Transit at the end of the year. Expenses for the beginning of the school year are still coming in, as reflected in the Children, Youth, & Family line item. Dave paid two months of our diocesan fair share and will pay three for more months in December.

Dave said that Charlene has been trying to estimate where we'll end the year with respect to pledge income. He is estimating a \$1500-2000 deficit for the year, depending on December's pledge income and open plate income. The deficit will be because income has been less than expected, not because expenses have been more than expected.

The vestry received the treasurer's report.

**Stewardship results:** Dave said the latest total for 2014 pledges is \$268,000. We have 91 pledges in, 59 of which increased vs. 2013 and nine of which decreased vs. 2013. Seventeen to 18 expected pledges are still outstanding; based on 2013 pledges we expect these to total \$25,000. The Stewardship team's best estimate is that we will have \$290,000 in pledges for

2014. A letter has been sent to the diocese asking that we pay half of the increase in our “Fair Share” for 2014. The draft 2014 budget has a \$3000-4000 deficit. Decisions regarding balancing the budget will be made in January, after we know our financial status at the end of 2013, our final 2014 stewardship numbers, and a reply from the diocese.

**Resignations from the vestry:** Ernie said that, due to increased work responsibilities, Paul Fisher has resigned from the vestry. In addition, Jim Westcott has resigned from the vestry and left Christ Church; he feels called to explore other houses of worship to grow spiritually.

**Nominating Committee report:** The nominating committee met and puts forth the following slate of nominees:

For senior warden – Shannon Erickson

For junior warden – Dan Shoemaker

To complete the two years of Dan’s term – Randy Pastorius

To complete the two years of Paul’s term – David Waletzko

To complete the one year of Jim’s term – Mary Lee Isely

For three-year terms – Laura Niederhofer, Jane Pederson, and Matt Stiles

Those elected will be joining Greg, Catherine H., and Susan on the vestry.

Ernie said that Dave has agreed to stay on as temporary treasurer for the next few months, but that the vestry will be looking for a treasurer early in the year. After seven years, Catherine J. is ready to pass along the clerk’s pen. Michelle Rebholz has agreed to serve as vestry clerk. Shannon moved that the vestry appoint Dave Leick as temporary treasurer and Michelle Rebholz as clerk for 2014. Motion seconded and carried.

Ernie will put a notice in the Good News beginning this Sunday with the date of the annual meeting (February 2) and the slate of nominees for wardens and vestry members. The Finance & Legal team will review our bylaws and ensure that they fit with how we handle elections.

**The Reverend Tua Vang:** Ernie said that the Rev. Vang is the first Hmong person to be ordained an Episcopal priest. He has a clear vision of his ministry: to go to Hmong communities throughout the U.S. and the world and help them form Episcopal churches. His home parish has applied to the national church for a grant to help him do this. Others in Minnesota want to support him financially. Ernie would like Christ Church parishioners to meet the Rev. Vang and determine if we want to support him, too. He will be preaching on a Sunday in February and will lead the Adult Education Forum between the services.

### **Ministry team reports:**

Building & Grounds: None

Communication & Marketing: Greg said that a news announcement on our website will now automatically expire after the event is over. We can now have as many Christ Church email addresses as we want. Dave said that we will remove a bulletin board in the narthex and have electronic announcements on an installed flat screen. Susan noted

that wireless internet service is not available in the upstairs room used for confirmation class. Ernie and Greg will discuss how to get wireless internet into that room.

Faith Formation: Charlene said that Faith Formation met last week. Jim Westcott's leaving the church will not affect the actors signed up for future Adult Education Forum presentations. Rehearsal for the Christmas pageant will be at 6 pm on Wednesday. A tubing event for youth and families is scheduled for over Christmas break.

Finance & Legal: Dave said that the team met and reviewed the parish's financial statements.

Outreach: Catherine H. said that the Angel Tree gifts were delivered.

Pastoral Care: Jan said that she has a list of "go-to" people when people in the parish need support.

Small Group Ministries: None

Stewardship: None

Strategic Planning: None

Welcoming & Evangelism: Catherine J. read a report from Nancy Forman. We have visitors almost every Sunday. She expects that there will be an orientation for newcomers early in 2014. Nancy asked that we notice who has been absent for two to three Sundays, call them to see if they're sick or need help in any way, and then pass the information on to ministry teams, Ernie, or Nancy as needed.

Worship & Music: None

Kathryn said that she will put the parish ministry pamphlet that she's updating on hold until after the annual meeting.

**Junior warden's report:** Shannon said that she had received a lot of good suggestions regarding the storage space study she's conducting. She will review them with Ernie, and the team will meet again and prioritize action items.

**Senior warden's report:** Phil said that he will develop a new schedule for vestry members to deliver Sunday morning announcements.

**Rector's report:** None

**Final review:** Catherine J. reviewed our action items:

- Ernie will put a notice in the Good News beginning this Sunday with the date of the annual meeting (February 2) and the slate of nominees for wardens and vestry members.

- The Finance & Legal team will review our bylaws and ensure that they fit with how we handle elections.
- Ernie and Greg will discuss how to get wireless internet into the upstairs confirmation room.
- Vestry members have been asked to notice who has been absent for two to three Sundays, call them to see if they're sick or need help in any way, and then pass the information on to ministry teams, Ernie, or Nancy Forman as needed.

**Adjournment:** Ernie closed the meeting with prayer at 8:15 pm.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk