

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting  
Monday, March 16, 2015  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Woodbury, Minnesota

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

**Present:** Rector Ernie Ashcroft, Junior Warden Catherine Harrington, Clerk Michelle Rebholz, Treasurer David Waletzko; elected vestry members Nancy Thompson, Laura Niederhofer, Randy Pastorius, Matt Stiles, Jenny Burke, James Elam.

**Absent:** Senior Warden Dan Shoemaker, Jane Pederson, Sue Vold, Mary Lee Isely

**Prayer and study:** Ernie led with a prayer, Psalm 91.

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

**Approval of vestry minutes:** A correction was made to include Jenny Burke as present. Laura moved to approve the minutes as amended; motion seconded and carried.

**February Financial Statements:** David summarized the statements. On the balance sheet, the memorial fund is for people donate money to the church in memory of a member that has passed away. As a reminder, it was zeroed out. Donations in memory of Jayne are currently reflected in there on the balance sheet; however, Bob's are not yet. The General Fund balance is about \$4,000. On the Rector's Discretionary Checking account: according to the Canons, a rector should have such an account. However, Ernie stated that he finds the Dire Needs fund more useful. A question was asked about the EYC fund (Episcopal Young Christian) and where the donations from the Murder Mystery dinner would go. David stated he would follow up. On the Treasurer's Report, David highlighted a few items: first, he is in the process of tracking down the spending under Miscellaneous Expenses; second, Ernie was provided an extra paycheck, which will be resolved; third, under Diocesan Fund, the church received no February bill so we are one payment behind.

**Linda Deaver:** Ernie stated that because Dana's responsibilities have changed, some duties have been transferred to Linda. Linda is doing more and cannot fit all of her work into the 16 hours a week budgeted to her. Moving her to 18 hours per week would amount to \$60 every pay period, or \$1500 per year. Jenny moved to adopt Ernie's proposal to move Linda to 18 hours per week; motion seconded. There was discussion among the members regarding the effect on the budget; the consensus was that it would affect the budget in a modest amount. Motion carried.

**Update on Building Projects (Carpeting, Windows, Downstairs Door, Compressor):** Laura stated that carpeting is currently being installed; it is being paid for by the cleaning company's insurance. Painting of the offices and new office windows are also under way. The conversion on the lower entry door is complete. The compressor has been fixed, for much lower than

thought (\$50). Laura will head up the rain garden maintenance. May is covered. The condition of the grant was to maintain it for 20 years.

**Meeting with Bishop Brian:** Catherine stated that it was a good meeting. Catherine and Dan received a homework assignment. The Bishop prefers a transitional priest in addition to Dana, even if that person is very part time. Catherine and Dan are to come back to the Bishop with a list of priestly needs. MAP will help them come up with the list.

Ernie has helped Dana put together a job description of what Dana will be doing. The transitional priest's work will be minimal. Vestry members asked about the process for appointing a transitional priest. Ernie responded that the Bishop gives the name of a proposed transitional priest; the vestry decides. The vestry can say no twice. Dan and Catherine will be back to the Bishop after April 16.

**Minnesota Food Share Month (March 22):** The collection will take place this Sunday.

**Vestry Retreat:** The retreat has not happened yet because the dates have not worked for members. Ernie will send an e-mail with possible dates.

**Rector's Round Table:** Dana's ordination date has changed to June 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. It will be at Breck and take about 90 minutes. Sunday June 21 is Dana's first service as a priest; there will be one service with a celebration afterward. Katherine Pratt is getting stoles for Dana.

**Consent Agenda:** The consent agenda was accepted with the correction that Capital Campaign funds are not being used for the carpet.

**Junior Warden's Report:** no additional information.

**Senior Warden's Report:** no report.

**Rector's Report:** Ernie stated that for Dana's ordination, it is traditional to present stoles. Ernie will ask Mike S. to not be at Guardian Angels Dana's first Sunday as a priest. Ernie will also be there. Ernie asked vestry members to attend the ordination and first service. Also, the Capital Campaign will basically be done once the work on the offices is done.

**Recap of Decisions Made, Tasks Assigned, and Items Tabled:**

- David will find out more about the EYC fund and the proceeds from the Murder Mystery dinner;
- Ernie will tell Linda of the vestry decision regarding her hours;
- Ernie will send an e-mail with possible dates for a vestry retreat.

**Adjournment:**

Ernie closed the meeting with a prayer at 7:50 pm.

## Committee Reports For April 2015 Vestry meeting

Pastoral Care Committee (Mary Lee Isely)

While this doesn't fall under Pastoral Care, per se, I thought I'd pass along a brief conversation I overheard during the April 15 Wednesday Nite Live youth groups. A couple adolescents were thirsty but didn't want to drink water out of styrofoam cups (the ones that adults use during Sunday morning coffee hour). One pre-teen said, "They're bad for the environment" and the other responded, "I never drink out of styrofoam cups. They're just bad."

After hearing this exchange, I remembered a person mentioning at the Seder Supper that the coffee-hour styrofoam cups were not environmentally friendly and asking why the parish hadn't switched to paper cups. The individual's main objection to the plastic foam cups was that they're made from petroleum products, while paper cups come from a renewable resource.

I realize there's some debate over whether paper or styrofoam cups are more eco-friendly, but perhaps as a symbolic gesture the Vestry might want to consider switching to paper cups. It would at least conform to the spirit of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori's request that all Episcopal churches across the nation "make their worship and educational facilities more environmentally friendly." And, if for no other reason, the youths would see it as an effort by the grownups to be good environmental stewards.

Faith Formation (Matt Stiles)

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Building and Grounds (Laura Niederhofler)

Pierre has meeting next week with Collins Electric to get a final bid on lighting up the "Headless Saints". It is his understanding that an anonymous donor has offered to fund this project.

The mowing teams for 2015 have been set up. Several volunteer teams will maintain the church lawn. An outside clean up by the congregation has been set for Saturday, April 25th.

To date, there has only been 1 volunteer sign up for "Adopt-A-Garden" to help maintain the Rain Garden. It was requested that teams sign up for each month to maintain the Rain Garden. Christ Church is contractually bound, by the Watershed Grant, to maintain it. If we do not maintain it to the Watershed expectations, Christ Church may be required to reimburse the Watershed District for the expenses they had in creating the Rain Garden for Christ Church. It was agreed, when we entered into this Watershed Grant that this would not be a part of the Building and Grounds Committee Responsibility. Any help on how to get volunteers to sign up and show up would be greatly appreciated.

Small Group Ministries (Sue Vold)

Nothing to report.

Communications (?)

Welcoming Committee (?)

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Stewardship Committee (Randy Pastorius)

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Outreach Committee (Catherine Harrington)