

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Monday, May 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, Treasurer John Potter, Clerk Michelle Rebholz; elected vestry members Catherine Harrington, Mary Lee Isely, David Waletzko, Susan Vold, Greg Guffey, Randy Pastorius, Matt Stiles, and Laura Niederhofer.

Absent: Jane Pederson.

Prayer and study: Ernie led the group in prayer. We then read John Chapter 14, verses 15-27. We asked ourselves, “What word or phrase struck me?” “What is Jesus saying to me?” and “What is Jesus asking us to do?”

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

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

April Financial Statements: John Potter explained the financial statements. We are tracking close to budget. There was one reallocation that needed to be made; \$1200 should have gone to Programs and Growth rather than Children, Youth and Family. It is just a redistribution. The Stewardship report shows that pledges are on track. It is typical to see a drop in pledge income and open plate income during the summer.

Rain Garden Project Update: Ernie stated that there is a delay in the rain garden due to the severe winter; also, the plants are not ready yet. Planting will occur on June 8. There were also discussions with the contractor regarding the new stairs; it was not clear at first if railings on both sides were needed. The railing would be very visible, so making it look presentable was important. Due to the depth of the stairs, the stairs are actually considered landings, so railings are not required; however, the church will install railings on one side. The forms are in for the stairs and they are hoping to pour the concrete later this week. Catherine explained the history of the railing issue and is very pleased with the result.

Preparing for Rector Transition Update:

Data Gathering Committee: Ernie stated that Dave Leick could not be here. The Data Gathering Committee is complete. Dave is chair; other members include Blane Huppert, Jamie Mair, Jane Pederson, Matt Stiles, Cyprian Obasi, Jan Pereyra, and Christine Osorio. The group has not met yet.

Warden’s Meeting with Bishop Brian: Shannon and Dan summarized the meeting. The Bishop wants to assign someone to help the committee with its work. The Diocese is very

skilled at rector transitions and will guide and provide a template. Shannon will call Karen at the Diocese to follow up. We as a parish will decide what type of priest we want and the Bishop is supportive of this approach. At every step, the parish retains control. We are in a good place and the next rector will be a compliment to our parish. The data gathering committee will operate in a very open process, soliciting input from all members of the parish; the search committee will be handling interviewing and will have to operate more confidentially for personnel reasons.

MMS Update: Meeting with Doug Sparks: The meeting with Doug Sparks on the Diocesan payment was productive. Ernie explained that the end of the year financial statement for Christ Church listed money from the Lilly Grant and Capital Campaign money, neither of which can be used for ongoing operating expenses. If there is a surplus at the end of the year, Christ Church can pay that toward the increased MMA payment.

Dana Strande – Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate: The Christ Church budget assumes that Dana would not be ordained until December. As Dana will be ordained a transitional Deacon in June, there will be a salary increase and an increased pension payment. Dana is okay with moving to 80% time, which could cover the salary difference. Others, perhaps volunteers, could assume some of the administrative and logistics duties she has been handling. The increased pension payment amounts to about \$2200-2300 needed. There were discussions among the vestry members about different options.

Ernie also pointed out this issue should not be a concern next year, because in 2015 Ernie will be at Christ Church for only 7 months. In addition, Ernie can train Dana, and with the combination of George and Dana, the transition after Ernie leaves will be a smooth one.

Matt moved to change Dana's position to 80% time this year, and determine separately how to fund the additional pension expense. Motion seconded and carried with Sue abstaining.

Matt moved to pursue a fundraising and celebration dinner to cover the increased pension expense. Motion seconded. Discussion centered around the fact that the ordination of clergy is in Christ Church's mission, and we are serving our mission by supporting Dana's ordination. There may also be parish members who voluntarily provide donations separately from the dinner. Motion carried with Sue abstaining.

Senior Warden's Report: Shannon reported that the church received a page from the Gutenberg printing press as a donation. Shannon will work with Catherine Harrington on a way to display it.

Junior Warden's Report: Dan stated he had nothing additional to report.

Consent Agenda: The consent agenda was considered received by the vestry.

Outreach Name Change: This item was tabled due to ongoing discussions among representatives of other committees.

Rector's report: Ernie reported that the Bishop is coming next Wednesday; 8 young people and 10 adults will be confirmed. The Bishop will also bless the rain garden. Ernie encouraged parish members to attend. Dana's ordination is June 26th; it is important for good turnout.

Final review: Michelle reviewed our action items and items tabled:

- Shannon will contact Karen at the Diocese about a person being assigned to assist with the rector transition.
- Ernie will contact Dana regarding the 80% position and the planned dinner.
- The proposed name change of the Outreach committee is table until further discussions with other related committees can be completed.

Adjournment: The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

Michelle Rebholz, Clerk

Committee Reports For May 2014 Vestry meeting

Pastoral Care Committee (Mary Lee Isely)

Nothing to report at this time; see vestry agenda regarding Outreach Committee

Faith Formation (Matt Stiles)

No report since Faith Formation meeting was cancelled.

Building and Grounds (Laura Niederhofler)

Outside Grounds Cleanup (D. Davis, S. Kokka, W. Heck, P. LePere, R. Pereyra, L. Niederhofer, and Drew)

- Lawn mowers tuned up and blades sharpened (Rodger & Pierre)
- Lawn mowing teams set up (able to get enough volunteers to set up four teams)
- Mowing for season begins
- Office AC heat pump is set to be installed this month
- New windows are on order for Fellowship Hall, the Nursery and South Hallway
- Landscaping work begins as part of the Water Shed Grant (new stairway, security lights moved, old walkway removed, new walkway and patio to be constructed)
- Rain Garden flowers to be planted, if available, hopefully before Bishop's arrival
- Repair all interior locks

Small Group Ministries (Sue Vold)

Nothing to report at this time; see vestry agenda regarding Outreach Committee.

Communications (Greg Guffey)

Facebook has made modifications to how items from Pages appear in individuals' Facebook news feeds. We are currently experimenting with how to promote posts to get good visibility.

Welcoming Committee (David Waletzko)

In April we had 7 people attend orientation. In May Ernie had Episcopal 101, and he expects 8 and maybe others to be received in the Episcopal church. We know there are several others who could not attend orientation in April who want to attend one soon.

Also, please encourage everyone to be mindful of visitors and greet them. Also, please be mindful of anyone absent several Sundays and call them to see if everything is okay. Should anything be wrong, please let Ernie, George Ham, or Nancy know.

Stewardship Committee (Randy Pastorius)

Outreach Committee (Catherine Harrington)

Nothing to report at this time; see vestry agenda regarding Outreach Committee.