

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting  
Tuesday, May 19, 2015  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Ernie Ashcroft. He led us in prayer. Because we did not have a quorum, we could not conduct any business.

**Present:** Rector Ernie Ashcroft; Senior Warden Dan Shoemaker; Junior Warden Catherine Harrington; Treasurer David Waletzko; elected vestry members James Elam, Mary Lee Isely, Laura Niederhofer, and Randy Pastorius; guest Dave Leick; Clerk pro tem Catherine Jacobson

**Absent:** Clerk Michelle Rebholz; elected vestry members Jenny Burke, Jane Pederson, Matt Stiles, Nancy Thompson, and Susan Vold

**Report from the Missional Assessment Process (MAP):** Dave told the vestry that the fourth and final MAP meeting had been held the night before with Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, Missioner for Community Engagement for the diocese. He presented on the demographics of Woodbury (though we draw from many neighboring communities) and social outreach opportunities. On June 9 Dave, Blane Huppert, Jamie Mair, and Matt Stiles will be meeting with Amanda Ziebell-Finlay, Missioner for Mission for the diocese, to get the results from all of their exercises (e.g., strengths and passions of the parish), which will be helpful in putting together our parish profile. These results will be shared with the congregation (e.g., via an Adult Education session or the Good News). The next step, after the June 9th meeting, is for Dave to set up time with Karen Olson, Missioner for the Ministry for the diocese, to discuss putting together the parish profile. The profile will include information about the demographics of our parish and the surrounding community, our financial history, the parish's passions and missions, where we want to go, and what skills are needed in our next rector. Dave will provide the diocese feedback on this process.

**Michael Pipkin request:** Dan explained that Michael Pipkin, the Missioner for Finance from the diocese, recently called Ernie. The diocese oversees four of our trusts, including one from Mary Proal Saunders that has a principal of ~\$35,000. (David noted that we currently earn ~\$1000 per year from this trust.) Given the costs involved in managing this trust (e.g., accounting and court fees), it no longer makes financial sense for the diocese to continue to do so. Michael suggested that we terminate the trust. The process is straight-forward; the diocese would do the legwork and cover any fees and then send us a check for the principal. Ernie and Dan have not seen a copy of the trust, so they don't know if the money is earmarked for a particular purpose; Dan will look at it before acting. The sense of those present was that there were no reservations about exploring the terms of the trust. Ernie suggested that Dan poll the vestry via email as to whether they would support exploring terminating the trust; Dan can then work with the diocese's lawyer accordingly. At a future meeting, the vestry can discuss terminating the trust and how to use the money. [Note: Dan requested a copy of the trust (contained in Ms. Saunder's Last Will and Testament), reviewed the terms, and followed up with

the vestry in an email that in his opinion there were no restrictions in the trust terms that would prevent our terminating the trust.]

**Meeting with Bishop Brian:** Dan said that he and Catherine H. had a follow-up meeting with Bishop Brian regarding a transitional priest. Bishop Brian feels that we do need a transitional priest. Dan and Catherine communicated that someone would be needed only part-time; the bishop suggested he or she be here Sunday mornings and another day a week. Dan put together a draft list of parish needs, which the vestry discussed. Dan will send a final version to the bishop. The diocese will use that to match us with a transitional priest.

**Report from the Rector's Round Table:** Dan said that an employment agreement had been signed with Chris Falteisek.

**Junior warden's report:** Catherine H. said that a meeting was held to organize festivities for Dana Fath Strande's and Cindi Brickson's ordinations and Ernie's retirement. Sandy Huppert and Patsy Keech are organizing a reception for Dana after the June 21st service. Dana is taking the lead for receptions for Cindi after the June 28th services. The Leicks are planning a party for Ernie on Friday, July 24. A reception will be held after the July 26th service, with African food. A vestry gathering at the Elams' is also being planned.

**Senior warden's report:** None

**Rector's report:** Ernie reviewed the vestry's responsibilities. He will ask Michelle to email that document to all vestry members. He reviewed how the vestry functions and the importance of attending vestry meetings. The role of the vestry is particularly important during a time of transition between rectors. Ernie discussed the search process. The vestry will put together a search committee and choose the leader of that committee; he suggested a balanced committee of no more than seven or eight people. He recommended that, after the list of rector candidates is whittled down to two or three, funds be made available for a couple of search committee members to visit the home parishes of the candidates, see a service, and talk with parishioners. The candidates should be asked if it's okay that they visit, but they should not be told when the visit will be. The final candidates should then be invited to Christ Church to preach. Vestry members and search committee members will need to be very actively involved in this process; it will require a lot of thoughtful activity. Ernie suggested that a prayer be developed so that parishioners can pray for members of the search committee. Ernie is hopeful that we will have a new rector by the first of the year.

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

- Dan will poll the vestry via email as to whether they would support exploring terminating the Mary Proal Saunders trust.
- Dan will send to the bishop a list of parish needs with respect to a transitional priest.
- Ernie will ask Michelle to email vestry members the "vestry responsibilities" document.

**Adjournment:** Ernie closed the meeting with prayer at 9:00 pm.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk pro tem

## **Committee Reports For June 2015 Vestry meeting**

### **Pastoral Care Committee (Mary Lee Isely)**

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### **Faith Formation (Matt Stiles)**

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### **Building and Grounds (Laura Niederhofler)**

June:

New Office AC conduit painted to match brick

Mowing teams active

Tom Hunter's Granddaughter painted the metal benches green as a school project.

Sanctuary AC's set to come on automatically

### **Small Group Ministries (Sue Vold)**

Nothing to report.

### **Communications (?)**

### **Welcoming Committee (?)**

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### **Stewardship Committee (Randy Pastorius)**

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