

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Monday, June 16, 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, Randy Pastorius, Matt Stiles, and Laura Niederhofer.

Absent: Jane Pederson, Greg Guffey

Prayer and study: Ernie led the group in prayer. We then read Matthew Chapter 10, verses 24-29. 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: Dan moved that the agenda be approved; motion seconded and carried.

Approval of vestry minutes: Sue Vold moved to correct the minutes to reflect that she abstained from the votes on moving Dana’s position to 80% time and to hold a fundraiser for the additional pension expense. Randy moved to approve the minutes as amended. Motion seconded and carried.

May Financial Statements: John Potter explained the financial statements. We are not tracking on Miscellaneous Income. Stewardship and expenses are both tracking well. Episcopal MMS is tracking better than last year. John believes George’s expenses have been completed. John will check on the Finance/Legal line item. On the balance sheet, the church had to issue a check to the contractor for the rain garden project before receiving grant money for the project. In June we received a portion of the grant (\$25,000). Transmittal is an in and out account; the rain garden project and capital campaign go through these accounts, so the deficit in that account has an explanation. They are not regular operation and maintenance expenses.

Rain Garden Project Update: Everything has slowed down due to the rain. Several different entities are involved in working with the contractor. The Watershed District provides the funding while the city of Woodbury and church are also involved. The Watershed District stated that the church should not put channel drains by the parking lot, as first planned. This will save money. There are savings from other sources (for example, having a railing on one side of the steps). The contractor may do extra work instead; Dave Leick is looking into these options.

Staff Developments: Mark Olson has left and George is leaving. George will be preaching on the 29th. Members should attend Dana’s ordination if they are available. George is moving to St Cloud on July 2. It is traditional to give Dana a gift for her ordination; it was agreed that she would be given an alb. Ernie will send out a communication about a gift for Dana.

Replacement Plans for Minister of Worship: Ernie has found a replacement for the summer: Nancy Wellington. There is a candidate for permanent replacement who will start the first Sunday in August. He is interested in a children's choir and children who play instruments.

Dana (NEW ITEM): Dana is allowed to take part of her salary as a housing allowance. Shannon moved to allot \$10,400 of Dana's salary for July 1-December 31 to be designated as a housing allowance. Motion seconded and carried.

Rector's Roundtable: The Lilly grant expense is coming in lower than expected so there are funds left. An artist will be brought in during the September 21st service; the theme will be The Journeys. Catherine Harrington explained the background. The mural painted by the artist will be displayed in the Family Room.

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

Outreach Name Change: Catherine reported that she, Mary Lee, and Sue met with George. The concept of the name change is to have the whole congregation feel included. Discussion among vestry members focused on whether the purpose of the committee needs to change if the name changes. If the purpose would change, people would need to be involved to carry out the change. The three vestry members agreed to meet outside of vestry again and discuss the roles of each committee.

Possible Trips for 2015: Rodger and Pierre work for Habitat for Humanity; Habitat goes to Belize; church groups can attend for a week. Ernie asked about interest in this type of trip. Vestry members agreed it was a good idea to pursue. Ernie also offered to be part of a trip to Ireland. Vestry members agreed this was also a good idea to follow up on.

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

Senior Warden's Report: Rodger entered the church's music into a spreadsheet; none of it is being sold. Shannon is still looking for a dealer for the pews. Shannon will follow up on the pews.

Rector's report: Ernie reported that we need to raise \$6,000 (MMS, extra pension funding). Ernie is thinking about a dinner theatre and is meeting with a friend next week. Vestry members liked the idea. October would be the target month for the event. Ernie will be on vacation from June 27 to July 11 with Betty. Services are covered.

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

- Ernie will make sure there is an e-mail blast about the single service on June 29.
- Ernie will send out a communication about a gift for Dana.
- Catherine, Sue, and Mary Lee will discuss the roles of each of their respective committees.
- Shannon will follow up on the pews.

Adjournment: The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.
Michelle Rebholz, Clerk

Committee Reports For June 2014 Vestry meeting

Pastoral Care Committee (Mary Lee Isely)

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Faith Formation (Matt Stiles)

There are no minute for the Faith Formation meeting; they discussed summer programs.

Building and Grounds (Laura Niederhofler)

Log, June 2014

- Changed oil in air compressor and adjusted the belt tension.
- Office AC installed [Heat Pump].
- Watershed Landscaping completed and rain garden mostly planted.
- Mowing by teams every week.
- Shrubs planted in Rain Garden
- Inside Building Clean UP June 14th

Small Group Ministries (Sue Vold)

No additional information to report.

Communications (Greg Guffey)

With the upcoming departure of Kathryn Pratt, the church will need another new eGood News coordinator. Currently, finalizing remaining schedule with Kathryn.

Welcoming Committee (David Waletzko)

We had a great meeting last night [Wednesday night, June 11]. There were five people there who are interested in Christ Church, and we think some of them will be deciding to join. We have another newcomer orientation scheduled Sunday, June 22, and we have people signed up for that event, too.

I ask you to encourage all vestry members to please look around the church every Sunday to see if someone has been missing for two or three Sundays. We know that summer is a more relaxed time for many church members, but we don't want anyone to "fall through the cracks". There have been times when members have been hurt that no one noticed their not being at church. We need know if something is wrong, or they need help in any way. It could be illness, their unhappiness about something, or anything else. If they are not comfortable calling members about their absence, have them call Nancy Foreman and she will make the contact.

Stewardship Committee (Randy Pastorius)

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Outreach Committee (Catherine Harrington)

Through the sacrament of baptism we die to our old way of life and join with Christ and His mission to bring about the ever-breaking in reign of God. We have, as a church in the 21st Century begun to reclaim our original apostolic roots and have returned to a church whose focus

is outward, whose focus is mission. We have begun to realize that missional means joining God in our neighborhoods and much as the early disciples who were sent two by two into towns and villages, not to change them but rather to sit with them, learn their way of life from them and then through partnership join in their struggles and journeys, we too set out to seek where God is at work in our neighborhood and seek and serve Christ in our neighbors by honoring them. Susanne Watson Epting offered the following observation: "There is no secular world. We have moved beyond outreach. We know the world is a big place and not an outreach project that assumes the church is the center of things. We have moved beyond 'inclusive.' What's important is friendship and standing in solidarity." Outreach, in the past, has been one committee among many in a parish, with the work being done by a few in the name of all. We have come to realize that in order to fully live into our baptismal covenant in which we promise to join in God's mission that this paradigm no longer serves. We are all called into mission by virtue of our baptism. Outreach carries with it a stigma of handouts, where the church decides what is best or in the words of one author participates in toxic charity. Mission Opportunities carries the understanding that we need to be partners with those around us, respecting the dignity of every human being and journeying with our neighbors in love and solidarity.

Outreach name change: The above quote is from a friend of George Ham's (Janet McNally) with his inspiration regarding the name change of the outreach committee. and I do have some other thoughts regarding this name change that I can discuss at the meeting if it is still on the agenda.

Also: Outreach (the current working name) : Having had no luck in finding a chair for the "outreach committee" or being unable to find many eager volunteers ready to take on the commitment, I suggest that the vestry member with the responsibility of "Outreach" just ask each month for an update from each different currently active outreach effort to report to vestry. I would take this information from the document that Kathryn Pratt has been working on creating this list.