

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2015
Christ Episcopal Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ernie, who also gave an opening prayer.

Present: Senior Warden Dan Shoemaker; Junior Warden Catherine Harrington, Rector Ernie Ashcroft; Treasurer David Waletzko; elected vestry members James Elam, Mary Lee Isely, Laura Niederhofer, Jenny Burke, Jane Pederson, Nancy Thompson, Matt Stiles, Randy Pastorius, Clerk Michelle Rebholz

Absent: Sue Vold

(The vestry intentionally addressed some items differently from the order on the agenda.)

Request from Molly Weiss: Ernie stated that Molly is interested in the path to priesthood. She began the discernment process previously but put it on hold. She will need a sponsoring priest from our parish, who would be Dana. The vestry must be involved by filling out the form to start the discernment process. Then a team of 5-6 people from the parish and 1 from outside the parish meet every month for several months in a row. At the end of that period, the team approaches the vestry with a recommendation (yes, to move forward, or no). The vestry acts upon the recommendation and sends another form to the Diocese. It is a long process and is likely to take 5 years before she is ordained. Randy moved to affirm Molly to begin the discernment process. Motion seconded and passed.

Ernie's Upcoming Schedule (new item): Ernie is giving a program on Wednesday and then will be here on Friday and Sunday. Otherwise, he will not be around much. After his retirement, he cannot be at Christ Church on Sundays nor at the church buildings for one year.

Report from MAP Group: Dave Leick gave the presentation. The MAP group worked with Amanda (who is from the Diocese). Using the surveys filled out by parish members, the group compiled the strength and values that members identified as most significant. Leadership is a strong trait at our church, which distinguishes us from other parishes and makes us very attractive to a new rector. Children and youth programs, learning opportunities, diversity, and worship are also high on the list. Food events are highly valued and include not only ministries but the meals our members prepare for events, which enhance the sense of community here. Participation in general is also a strong trait; people not only feel energized to participate but feel comfortable setting boundaries and stating when they will stop working on a particular project. The group is using this information to fill out the parish profile, which is in process. Then, the work will be turned over to a search committee; the parish profile will go into a national database. The general population can read the profile once it is finalized; there should be a document ready when the search committee meets.

Approval of Agenda: Laura moved to approve the agenda as amended; motion seconded and carried.

Approval of previous meeting minutes: James moved to approve the minutes; motion seconded and carried.

June Financial Statements: David presented the financial statements. The general fund is down to \$5,000. The flower fund is where it is expected to be, and the dire need fund has had no withdrawals.

On the Treasurer's Report, we are very close on pledges (off by \$1700, which is very good), we received a check from the maintenance, so we are not actually in the negative. The Miscellaneous Income will grow; David will have a separate document that will track by subcategory. On MMS, there is still no February bill, plus, we have not paid June or July. Ernie's last paycheck is 2 weeks from now. Everything is looking good right now.

Transitional Priest Progress: Dan gave an update. Karen Olson from the Diocese attended the special meeting of the vestry. The discussion went well. Karen provided some clarity on the process. A worship schedule is ready through October.

Rector's Roundtable: Nothing additional.

Consent Agenda: Catherine pointed out that some building and grounds projects are being done without consulting with the Beautification Committee. Items that were put up (for example, pictures) with money from the Capital Campaign were removed and other pictures put up in their place. While we want to encourage people to take on projects here, they should consult with Catherine, Dave Leick, or others to ensure that the project is consistent with the aesthetics here and is not replacing something recently purchased with Capital Campaign funds.

Junior Warden's Report: An agreement with Chris was signed; one is needed for Dana. Catherine met with Cindi and has signed hers.

Senior Warden's report: Dan had a conversation with Chris about how well received his work is here. There was also a discussion about the church finances overall, and whether the church could provide health care benefits for Chris. In addition, vestry members expressed interest in understanding how a new rector's salary would affect the church's finances if the new rector had somewhere between 10-20 years of experience.

Dan also said that he and Catherine communicated with most of the people identified as possible candidates for the Search Committee.

Final review: Michelle reviewed the action items:

- Ernie will talk to Molly about the next steps in the discernment process.
- Dan will follow up with Karen Olson on the transitional priest.
- Dan will talk further with Chris on Thursday evening, based upon the vestry discussion related to healthcare.
- David will run calculations on the minimum salary for a priest with 10-20 years of experience.

Adjournment: Dan adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.