

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2015
Christ Episcopal Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Dan.

Present: Senior Warden Dan Shoemaker; Junior Warden Catherine Harrington, Transitional Priest Tom Gehlsen; elected vestry members Mary Lee Isely, Laura Niederhofer, Jenny Burke, Jane Pederson, Nancy Thompson, Matt Stiles, Randy Pastorius, Clerk Michelle Rebholz, Sue Vold

Absent: James Elam, Treasurer David Waletzko

Minutes: For the regular July 20 meeting minutes, Matt moved to approve; motion seconded and carried. For the July 30 special meeting minutes, Sue moved to approve with the condition that a typo be corrected (“Dan” to “Dana,” under Budget update). Motion seconded and carried.

Transitional Priest Update: Tom stated that this is a wonderful place to worship and he felt welcomed yesterday. He will be talking with Chris, Dana, and learning other church processes. In response to a question, he stated that he did sit in on vestry meetings at other churches when in the role of Transitional Priest.

Search Committee Update: Catherine stated that the search committee has had its second meeting, has the information from the MAP group, and is going through the ministry profile. There will be two Sunday adult education forums where information will be presented to the parish. Randy is the vestry liaison on the search committee. Applications for the position will come through the Diocese.

MAP Committee Wrap Up: Matt stated that the MAP Committee’s work is done and its work is in the hands of the Search Committee.

Chris Update: Healthcare coverage is moving forward. David worked with the Diocese to complete the forms. Chris’s contract will need to be rewritten to reflect that. Everyone is very pleased with Chris’s work and will continue to support his role here.

Youth Curriculum (new item): Vestry members discussed the curriculum for older youth groups and will talk with Dana.

Budget Update: Dan updated the vestry in David’s absence. The budget lists the transitional priest for the next several months. July’s total income is on the Treasurer’s Report. The church has received the majority of the income from the settlement on the trust; we should receive another \$7,000, approximately. There are no unusual expenses, and it is normal during the summer months to be behind on pledges.

A question came up about how pledges are reported in the Good News. The reporting could be perceived as incomplete, because the pledge income for that week, reported in isolation, would not account for people who pay their pledges monthly or in lump sums. However, vestry members agreed that transparency is important and it may be worse to simply remove the weekly pledge income from the Good News altogether. Some possible options were discussed, such as listing the weekly amount plus the percentage toward our planned budget. At this time, the information will be left as is with the understanding that other alternatives will be discussed and pursued.

Good News/Website Update

The parish benefits from the announcements and updates at the services, and communication through the Good News and website. Vestry members all agreed that it is better to err on the side of communicating, and when in doubt, add mention of an event or update to the Good News. There was also discussion about reinstating the Communications Liaison, which Sue Vold agreed to do. Matt moved to make Sue the Communications Liaison; motion seconded and approved.

Deepening Roots Program:

This is a program suggested by parishioners. It is a spiritual program and is highly recommended. About 7 people are needed to participate, and we could partner with another parish. The cost is \$300 per person. The vestry members discussed whether to assist in paying the \$300 per person fee. The vestry members discussed getting additional information to know how many people are interested and how many need assistance to better understand the level of financial commitment. The item was tabled pending the receipt of additional info.

Announcements

Announcements at the services are scheduled through September. Catherine will work on the scheduling of announcements beyond September.

Denise Update

There was an update about a possible vulnerable adult in a wheelchair who has attended some Christ Church events by herself. Many are concerned about her safety and the safety of others at the church. Randy reached out to her residence and to other resources to ensure she is receiving the supervision and care that she needs. The vestry members discussed the matter and agreed that there is a balance between welcoming all to the church while ensuring that those who attend are properly supervised for safety reasons.

Other Issues:

Vestry members were unsure if Mike Strande would continue to lead Bible Study. Matt will follow up on this.

September 27 is the first day of Sunday School. They are looking at scheduling the annual meeting.

Randy stated that the Search Committee is starting with foundational work. Later, the group will formulate questions to ask candidates, evaluate responses, and determine how to answer questions from candidates. Things are on track. There was interest in staying forward looking while being mindful of Christ Church history.

Final review: Michelle reviewed the action items:

- Dan will add Tom's contact information to the list of contacts.
- Dan will ask Randy to write search committee updates as part of the consent agenda.
- Matt will contact Dana to ask about curriculum options for older youth groups, and ask whether Mike will continue to lead Bible Study.
- Dan will communicate the vestry's discussion on having weekly pledge information in the Good News.
- Catherine will work on Announcements scheduling beyond September.

Adjournment: Tom led a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.