

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting  
Monday, September 21, 2015  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Dan.

**Present:** Senior Warden Dan Shoemaker; Junior Warden Catherine Harrington, Transitional Priest Tom Gehlsen; elected vestry members Mary Lee Isely, Laura Niederhofer, Jane Pederson, Nancy Thompson, Matt Stiles, Randy Pastorius, Clerk Michelle Rebholz, James Elam, Treasurer David Waletzko

**Absent:** Sue Vold, Jenny Burke

**Minutes:** Laura moved to approve the minutes as written; motion seconded and carried.

**Search Committee Update:** Randy gave an update. The committee is going through interview questions and has picked out the 7 top questions. The first round of interviews will be done through Skype. There have also been discussions about the number of questions to ask; they do not want to interrupt the flow of an interview if things are going well. They are also focusing on the fact that this is a call, not just a job interview. The committee has gotten feedback on positions at other parishes. They need to communicate fully and need to show this is a calling, not just filling a job. At this time, we do not know how many applicants there have been; the Diocese has not said. Dan stated that multiple members of the parish have said they appreciate all of the info provided by the search committee. Transparency is key.

**Deepening Roots:** There was not enough interest expressed in this program, at least from Christ Church members, for the parish to move forward.

**Transitional Priest Update:** Tom reported he is working on a wedding that will take place next April and is doing some pastoral care. There are also baptisms coming up; they will be spread out more based upon families' schedules. Tom also suggested that in the 2016 budget, the parish consider including funding for a basic laptop for the rector's office.

**Communication Plan Update:** Duties are shifting; the people that were heading up the website and Facebook page are stepping down. Matt stated his priority is to have people in place so that as potential rectors and others check the website and Facebook page, the pages are up to date. Last month, Sue Vold agreed to work on a Communications Plan. Catherine Harrington will contact Sue Vold.

**Music Update:** Dan and Catherine met with Chris and Barbara (from Rogers Organ Studio). The church's current organ was bought from Rogers. It was designed by a previous Christ Church organist jointly with someone from Rogers. It is a unique organ for a church this size. It is older: keys are sticking and new parts are not available. One option is to replace the major console and clean the pipes. A second option is to purchase a newer, more compact digital

organ, which would give the sound we are looking for. A new digital organ would be \$60,000; a slightly used one would be \$35,000. A third option is to take chances with the current organ, which could last a long time or break down soon.

Chris can meet with Barbara, test out organs, and report back to us. Chris would like to speak in front of the parish about the status of the organ. A digital organ has other sounds that can be used at the 10:30 service, which currently does not use the organ. Also, a digital organ can be programmed. There was a discussion on what to do with the current pipes; vestry members agreed it is too early to tell. Matt moved to ask Chris to bring this issue up at the two services, explore options, and get feedback. Motion seconded and carried. Dan and Catherine will communicate with Chris.

**Budget Update:** David provided an update on finances. At the Finance Committee meeting, members discussed having a once-yearly memorial committee to decide what to spend the memorial funding on. \$25,000 was deducted out of the Trust Fund. \$26,000 is available for general use. Transmittal fund balance includes donations to refugees. We are sitting at roughly \$100,000.

On the Treasurer's Report, David stated he would like to break down the Miscellaneous Income into smaller, more specific categories in the future. Normal practice is for churches to "audit" each other every year; that audit went well. Open plate funds are \$5,000 above expectations. Pledges are holding strong. On expenses: secretary's wages are higher, Building and Grounds is not spending much. Utilities are a bit high. Rector's salary is now starting to be Tom's salary. Search expenses are starting to accumulate. The hospitality budget includes the money spent on parties this year (Ernie's retirement, for example) and we are already over for the entire year. \$28,000 is in the bank account; everything is good. The big issue for next year's budget is knowing what the new rector's salary will be. The proposed budget for 2016 can be presented at the All Parish Meeting.

**Stewardship:** Dan had a discussion with the Stewardship Committee. Blane will help coordinate with a presentation. Historically, we've asked for an increase in pledges each year, and people have responded. We are replacing not just a rector but a Parish Life Minister. Dan will coordinate with Blane and the Stewardship committee. The MAP results would also be helpful for the presentation. Finance and Stewardship Committees should look to MAP results when discussing what they want to focus on.

**Dana's Last Sunday:** Shannon E is working on it; Joyce is helping. Her last Sunday is October 4<sup>th</sup>, which is also blessing of the animals.

**Announcements:** Dan stated he really appreciated everyone's willingness on giving announcements. The feedback has been really positive. Announcements have been scheduled through early next year.

### **Consent Agenda:**

Matt provided an update of the Faith Formation committee beyond what was in the written report:

- Matt still needs two volunteers for the Connections class Sunday mornings.
- Boxes are needed for Boxing out Poverty; our previous source is no longer an option.
- Need another volunteer to coordinate for Loaves and Fishes.
- Lent stations was very popular last year.
- Faith Formation's goal is to maintain what's in place.

The consent agenda was accepted.

**Clerk Update:** Michelle stated she was stepping down as Clerk to the vestry at the end of the year. Vestry members should think about possible replacements.

**Other:**

- We should think about replacements for the 3 vestry members rolling off.
- We also need 3 delegates for the Episcopal convention.

**Adjournment:** Tom led with a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.