

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Monday, April 19, 2010
Christ Episcopal Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Ernie Ashcroft. We read John 10:22-30 (in which Jesus tells the Jews in the temple that He and the Father are one) using Gospel-based discipleship and three different translations of the text. After the first reading we asked ourselves, "What word or phrase struck me?" After the second reading we asked, "What is Jesus saying to me or to the church?" After the third reading we asked, "What is Jesus calling me or the church to do?"

Present: Rector Ernie Ashcroft; Senior Warden John Potter; Junior Warden Janeen Leick; Treasurer Aaron Twait; Clerk Catherine Jacobson; elected vestry members Denny Davis, Shannon Erickson, Tory Hassenauer, Erbayne Jarvis, Alida Knoll, and Ann Marie Metzger; and guest Alex Leick

Absent: Elected vestry members Tina Egwim, George Ham, and Jim Lee

Approval of the agenda: Alida moved that the agenda be approved, as amended to include time to discuss fundraising for the youth retreat. Motion carried.

Approval of vestry minutes: Shannon moved that the minutes of the March 15th regular vestry meeting be approved. Motion carried.

Finance report: Aaron presented the March 2010 balance sheet and the treasurer's report for January through March 2010. There were several items of note. Year-to-date pledge income is less than last year's (\$57,135 vs. \$63,921), but we are where we should be, considering the 2010 pledges that were paid in 2009. The copying expense was high; we made two payments in March. The office expense was also high; Sunday bulletins were printed by an outside vendor when we were between secretaries. The utility bill was also high; we were undercharged in February because our meter was not working. We closed March with expenses greater than income by \$860. Aaron expects our first quarter investment statements to show an increase in our investment assets. We recently raised \$3500-4000 for our Dire Need Fund. The vestry received the treasurer's report.

Follow-up regarding a discernment committee: Ernie reminded the vestry that Dana Fath Strande is feeling called to the priesthood and would like to begin the discernment process with the parish. Last month the vestry approved a motion for Dana to set up a committee. However, a diocesan staff member recently told Ernie that the parish must make a commitment for some degree of financial support during her seminary training. Ernie said that, since the vestry was not aware of that requirement at the last meeting, we needed to discuss it now. After discussion, Ann Marie moved that the vestry reiterates its approval of Dana setting up a parish discernment committee for discerning her call to the priesthood; in addition, the parish will provide some degree of financial support during Dana's seminary training, with the amount to be dependent

upon the parish's finances at the time. Motion carried. If Dana agrees, Ernie will let the parish know via the Good News sheet and email that she's moving in this direction – perhaps after the discernment committee is set up.

Labyrinth project: Ernie acknowledged that there needs to be a wider and more in-depth discussion of Connor Keech's proposal to build a labyrinth than has occurred to date. Tory moved that the vestry authorize the formation of a labyrinth steering committee (with representation from the Executive Committee, the Building & Grounds ministry team, the Faith Formation ministry team, Sue Swanson, Blane Huppert, and other interested parties) to develop with Connor Keech a plan for a labyrinth on church grounds. This plan should adequately address construction such that there won't be heaving of stones and address how the labyrinth will be used and maintained for the benefit of the church. Motion carried. This committee will meet on May 5 at 6 pm. When the plan has been developed, the committee will come back to the vestry with recommendations.

Fundraising for the youth retreat: Ann Marie and Tory said that Deb Hsu is putting together a basket to raffle off to raise funds for the youth retreat. This is an activity that the group would like to do several times over the coming year. Ernie said that he wants the church to support the youth, but he also wants to avoid donor fatigue and setting an unsustainable precedent; he suggested the group do two raffles a year. The vestry agreed with that model.

Vestry retreat: Ernie proposed the vestry meet for its retreat at 7 pm on Monday, May 10. Vestry members are to let Ernie know via email if they will attend. Catherine will contact the vestry members absent from this meeting.

New church secretary: Ernie said that Marinda Bland began as our church secretary on the Tuesday after Easter. She's competent in Word and Publisher, and she's an Episcopalian, so she's familiar with our liturgy. Ernie is pleased that things are going quite well.

Ministry team reports:

Building & Grounds: Denny said the team is looking for an inexpensive way to put herbicide on our lawn to take care of the dandelions. The team will repair the globes on the lights on the driveway after they ensure that all of the lights work. The Brown family would like to deliver and install its memorial bench by June. The office has been painted; the team will plan where to paint next. An outside clean-up day will be held soon. The team has talked to the wardens about replacing the office computer.

Communication & Marketing: None

Faith Formation: John said that the team pushed back on last month's suggestion of having a long coffee hour in lieu of an education hour once a month. They are concerned about the noise of conversation affecting Sunday school and a decrease in Godly Play attendance. Denny suggested using the family room and soliciting volunteers to clean up afterwards. Ernie suggested that the idea be implemented a few times in the fall and then

re-evaluated. Ann Marie said that the Inreach team needs to consider some logistics. Ernie reminded the team that the elevator can be helpful.

Finance & Legal: None

Inreach: None

Outreach: Alida said that, through May 14, the team is collecting men's professional and business casual clothing and personal hygiene items for Ready for Success; the donations will go to men entering or re-entering the workforce.

Stewardship: None

Welcoming & Evangelism: None

Worship & Music: None

Junior Warden's report: None

Senior Warden's report: John reported that the Executive Committee will meet with the Building & Grounds ministry team on Thursday, April 29 at 7 pm to discuss short-term and long-term capital needs, prioritization, and costs.

Rector's report: The church has been given a donation to purchase a new computer for the office. The church is looking at moving from a satellite connection to a T1 connection, which will be faster and more reliable; the contract is being negotiated. Ernie will be running a summer Alpha program beginning June 2. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with the program, let Ernie know. Ernie announced that John Potter had recently gotten married.

Final review: Catherine reviewed our action items:

- If Dana agrees, Ernie will let the parish know via the Good News sheet and email that she's discerning her call to the priesthood – perhaps after the discernment committee is set up.
- Vestry members are to let Ernie know via email if they will attend the vestry retreat on Monday, May 10.
- Catherine will contact the vestry members absent from this meeting about the vestry retreat on Monday, May 10.
- Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the summer Alpha program should let Ernie know.

Adjournment: Ernie Ashcroft closed the meeting with prayer at 8:50 pm.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk