

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Monday, May 17, 2010
Christ Episcopal Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Ernie Ashcroft. He led us in a prayer of thanksgiving and praise, in which he invited God's spirit to guide us in our thoughts, conversations, and decisions. We read Acts 2:1-21 (in which tongues of fire rested on the apostles and they began to speak about God in many languages) 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, George Ham, Tory Hassenauer, Erbayne Jarvis, Alida Knoll, Jim Lee, and Ann Marie Metzger

Absent: Elected vestry member Tina Egwim. Ernie told us that Tina's father died suddenly the day before, and he asked us to keep her and her family in our prayers.

Approval of the agenda: Alida moved that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

Approval of vestry minutes: Erbayne moved that the minutes of the April 19th regular vestry meeting be approved. Motion carried.

Finance report: Aaron presented the April 2010 balance sheet and the treasurer's report for January through April 2010. There were several items of note. The building use donation was largely from a wedding. Open plate and seasonal income were relatively high, due primarily to Easter. Pledge income is running behind last year, in part because we accelerated ~\$18,000 of pledge income from 2010 into 2009. Office expenses for the year are high, primarily due to expenses incurred during the transition between secretaries. We made a quarterly bonus payment to Dana Fath Strande. Music director expenses were high because of Mark Olson's time with the youth orchestra, especially for Easter. We were down ~\$3500 for the month and ~\$2100 for the year. The transmittal fund has fallen since March, because deposits for the trip to Turkey have been paid to the travel agency. The vestry received the treasurer's report.

We expect to be receiving within 30-45 days \$33,000-35,000 from the Mary Vernon Charitable Remainder Trust. Mrs. Vernon was born Mary Lightner in 1921 and attended this church as a child.

Three weeks ago John, Janeen, and Aaron met with the Building & Grounds team to discuss their short- and long-term capital needs and expenses. The Building & Grounds team made recommendations, which the Finance & Legal team discussed at their meeting last week. The "A" items on the Building & Grounds list (with estimated costs) were to repair/replace the south windows of the family room (\$7000), install a new roof (\$60,000), install ceramic tile on

the floor of the air lock (\$500), replace the carpet in the sacristy (\$500), repair the driveway lights (\$1000), and repair/replace the west windows of the family room (\$5000).

Aaron presented a projection of 2010 revenues and expenditures. He explained the variances. Administration expenses are projected to be higher than budgeted, primarily because of expenses incurred during the transition between secretaries. Personnel expenses are projected to be less than budgeted, because Bette Ashcroft was rehired to her position with the schools, so she will not need to be on Ernie's health insurance. Spiritual enrichments costs are projected to be higher than budgeted, because the pension plan changed its definition of "base salary" to include bonuses. Without funds from the Trust, our deficit at the end of the year is projected to be ~\$19,000, close to the ~\$18,000 in pledges that was accelerated from 2010 into 2009.

The Finance & Legal team recommended that we reserve \$20,000 of the trust gift for the general fund to pay for 2010 operating expenses. The vestry discussed uses of the remainder of the trust gift, keeping in mind that there is a transition at \$300,000 in expenses with respect to calculation of our diocesan Apportionment for the Common Good.

John moved that up to \$20,000 from the trust gift be allocated for operating expenses, with the remainder to be used for capital needs (i.e., the "A" items, with the exception of the roof, to be modified as needed by the Building & Grounds team). Motion carried.

Labyrinth project report: John reported that on May 5 he met with Dana Fath Strande, Denny Davis, Rodger Pereyra, Pierre LePere, Blane Huppert, Robb Keech, Connor Keech, and others to discuss Connor's proposed Eagle Award project of building a labyrinth on the church grounds. Sue Swanson could not attend but had provided her comments in advance of the meeting. Lisa Moriarty of Stillwater, an expert on the construction of labyrinths, had been consulted, and she approved of Connor's plan. Connor wants to build the labyrinth this summer. It may also incorporate a memorial garden, and it could be an opportunity for outreach to the community. John wrote a letter to the Boy Scouts, saying that Connor can move forward with the project. The vestry discussed this issue and approved of the steps that John had taken.

Confirmation service: Ernie said that on Saturday, approximately 90 people from the diocese were confirmed, including seven from our parish. Unfortunately, the atmosphere at St. Mark's Cathedral was not welcoming (Janeen concurred), and it was disorganized. Ernie found it particularly sad that, although many nationalities and cultures were present, there was no reflection of that in the liturgy, in the music, or in those serving at the altar. He was concerned about the message that the young people were receiving about the church they were joining. He noted that this service was very different from recent confirmations, in which a variety of music was used, different languages were spoken, and different kinds of people participated. Ernie plans to write a letter to the bishop expressing his concerns. Ann Marie suggested that parents and sponsors of the confirmands be invited and able to participate in planning the service.

Ministry team reports:

Building & Grounds: Denny said an outside cleanup day will be held on May 29; a day for indoor cleanup will be determined. The team is setting a mowing schedule and training people on the equipment. The team will save more than \$1000 per year by spraying weeds ourselves with our own sprayer. The team will paint the narthex and family room in the fall. The shingles are starting to come off the roof; repairs will likely

have to be made before we can resolve our complaint against the roofer. Denny asked if the team will be involved in the Fall Festival, and should it be included in the budget. Ernie said that the festival was scheduled for the year, and afterwards, a determination will be made about its future going forward. George asked that the vestry receive an update on the festival at the next meeting. Denny said that the 50-year membership plaque is now up-to-date; someone needs to gather names of new 50-year members for the annual meeting and ensure that the plaque stays up-to-date.

Communication & Marketing: None

Faith Formation: John said that the team met on May 4. The team is willing to forgo four Sunday adult forums during September – December in lieu of an extended coffee hour. The team hopes to achieve better attendance at the Advent and Lenten retreats by moving them to the middle of the seasons. Teachers recently met with Dana Fath Strande to discuss next year's youth programming. Vacation Bible School will be held June 28 – July 1. The last day of education for children and adults will be May 23. Summer Stretch will be held on Thursdays from late June into July. Pierre LePere has identified a projector that the team would like to purchase. Aaron will take to the Finance & Legal team the issue of where to find funds to purchase the projector. Erbayne will be the new vestry liaison for this team.

Finance & Legal: None

Inreach: Ann Marie said that she had had a discussion about coffee hour with the head of the Inreach team and the coffee hour leader; neither was in favor of having the monthly longer coffee hour upstairs. However, they will discuss the issue further. Ann Marie will set up a meeting to do so.

Outreach: Alida said that the team's collection of men's professional and business casual clothing and personal hygiene items for Ready for Success had had a good response. Denny said that in the past, donations have been collected for Loaves and Fishes, and he asked if we would be collecting donations this year. Alida said that a collection was not planned. Denny replied that, because a restaurant has been donating meals, their expenses are down.

Stewardship: George will be the vestry liaison for this team. He did not have a report.

Welcoming & Evangelism: None

Worship & Music: Shannon will join Jim as a vestry liaison for this team. They did not have a report.

Junior Warden's report: None

Senior Warden's report: John reported that the church had received information on the Woodbury Days parade. Because that activity has been handled by the Communication & Marketing team, the information will go to Tina when she returns.

Rector's report: Ernie announced that the new T1 connection would be installed tomorrow. Pierre LePere has the office's new computer and will install the software on it when it arrives. The new system should be set up by the end of the week.

Final review: Catherine reviewed our action items:

- Ernie asked us to keep Tina and her family in our prayers.
- An update on the Fall Festival will be delivered at the next vestry meeting.
- Someone needs to gather names of new 50-year members for the annual meeting and ensure that the plaque stays up-to-date.
- Aaron will take to the Finance & Legal team the issue of where to find funds to purchase a projector.
- Ann Marie will set up a meeting to continue the discussion around periodically having a longer coffee hour in lieu of Adult Education.
- Catherine will update the roster of vestry members with respect to ministry team assignments.

Adjournment: Ernie Ashcroft closed the meeting with prayer at 9:05 pm.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk