

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, December 21, 2010
Christ Episcopal Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Ernie Ashcroft. We read Matthew 4:12-23 (in which Jesus calls Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John to discipleship) 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, and Jim Lee; and guest Blane Huppert

Absent: Elected vestry members Tina Egwim and Ann Marie Metzger

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

Approval of vestry minutes: Denny moved that the minutes of the November 15th regular vestry meeting be approved. Motion carried. George moved that the minutes of the October 31st all-parish meeting be approved. Motion carried.

Stewardship results for 2011: As of yesterday, we have 80 pledging units, which have pledged a total of \$254,300 (mean: \$3178). There are thirteen outstanding pledging units, and the team expects a positive result from seven or eight of those. Aaron noted that, if the outstanding pledges came in at the same rate as last year, the total would be ~\$267,000.

Finance report: Aaron presented the November 2010 balance sheet and the treasurer's report for January through November 2010. There were several items of note. Open plate in November (which did not include the amount that went to the bishop's fund the Sunday he was here) was high; Aaron thinks that we may end the year at \$15,000-16,000. We made two monthly copying payments in November. The miscellaneous expense is primarily due to the use of supply priests, payroll processing fees, and checking account fees; Aaron will investigate why our checking account fees are so high. Most of the maintenance costs this month are for the snowplowing contract. We are caught up on Ernie's and Dana Fath Strande's pensions. We paid toward the Apportionment for the Common Good (ACG) in November and December, so that is paid in full. The vestry received the treasurer's report.

Draft budget: Aaron said that there are no changes to the draft budget from what was presented last month. The team is waiting to find out the results of the stewardship campaign. Aaron thinks that the budget he will bring to the vestry in January – which will be based on conservative revenue and expense assumptions – will have a \$4000-5000 deficit. Aaron

answered a question about the nursery attendant expense; the last few years that has ended up at \$5300-5500, so the \$6000 budgeted could be reduced. Aaron also said that Dave Coslett is looking into the increase in our property insurance premium. He thinks that, although Dave has been happy with the service we've received from our insurer, he would be open to shopping around. Ernie suggested we wait to hear the reason for the increase.

Visit of Bishop Prior: Ernie said that the bishop would like to come to one of our vestry meetings. January's meeting will have lots of business, so Ernie has suggested the bishop join us for a special vestry meeting on Tuesday, January 18, at 8 pm. Besides visiting with the bishop, we will discuss the capital campaign.

Capital campaign: Blane said that Ernie has asked him to head up the capital campaign. The core team (Blane, Grieg Metzger, Dave Leick, and Ginger Rook) does not yet know the list of projects or the dollar goal, but they are getting started. Two subteams (Building & Grounds and an ad hoc team) are putting together a list of projects, with an estimated cost, prioritization, and suggested representative for each. The team will present at the January vestry meeting, and the kickoff will be in February. Blane noted that we won't spend money before we have it; there will be no debt and no borrowing.

Bylaw changes: Aaron has sent the proposed changes and a summary of those to the vestry via email. They include giving flexibility in the church's ability to notify parishioners of meetings, better defining the start and end dates of vestry terms, better defining the voting rights of officers, better defining the circumstances under which the position of an officer or vestry member may become vacant, and revising how memorial gifts are handled. Erbayne suggested adding the ability to notify parishioners by telephone. The vestry also discussed extending the wardens' terms to two years, but decided against proposing this change. It was the sense of the vestry that these proposed changes be taken to the parish at the annual meeting.

Rector's housing allowance: Aaron explained that clergy members' housing allowance is not taxable. The vestry sets Ernie's housing allowance, which he must be able to justify. Erbayne moved that the vestry set Ernie's housing allowance for 2011 at \$52,000. Motion carried.

Responses of the vestry to the regional meeting with Bishop Prior: Ernie has not received any comments from the vestry since the last vestry meeting.

Nets for Life: Ernie has spoken with several people, and there is interest in our parish participating in this project. The vestry discussed how we might raise money without adversely impacting the capital campaign and other church finances, how to educate people about the need for this project, and how doing things for others improves our spiritual health. Shannon moved that Christ Church support the diocesan Nets for Life mission. Motion carried.

Ministry team reports:

Building & Grounds: Denny said that the team expects the windows in the family room to be installed in January and three broken panes to be repaired then, as well. The team is very appreciative of the snow blower they received this year.

Communication & Marketing: George noted that the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* published an article about our 1850s dance.

Faith Formation: Erbayne said that there will be a Lenten retreat on February 27 from 4-8 pm. The Bridging class is going well. Five teens have been trained as peer ministers; they will be commissioned by the bishop. The diocese will be hosting an Episcopal youth event in June.

Finance & Legal: None

Inreach: None

Outreach: The hat and mitten tree has received lots of contributions; it will be coming down a week from today. We need to receive 29 pounds of food to break last year's record donation to the Christian Cupboard food shelf.

Stewardship: None

Welcoming & Evangelism: None

Worship & Music: Jim said that everything is set for the Christmas services.

Junior Warden's report: None

Senior Warden's report: John thanked the Stewardship team and Aaron for working on the budget.

Rector's report: Ernie asked that Catherine read who is coming off of the vestry: Alida, Jim, and Ann Marie; they will form the nucleus of the nominating committee. Ernie then noted that, according to the bylaws, Erbayne can either run for the last year of the term to which Janeen was elected or for a three-year term

Final review: Catherine reviewed our action items:

- Aaron will investigate why our checking account fees are so high.

Adjournment: Ernie Ashcroft closed the meeting with prayer at 8:32 pm.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk