

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, September 15, 2009
Christ Episcopal Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Ernie Ashcroft. Ernie had us read from Mark 9 (in which Jesus tells the disciples that whoever wants to be first must be last and servant of all) 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?" After the third reading we asked, "What is God calling me to do?"

Present: Rector Ernie Ashcroft; Senior Warden Deb Shoemaker; Junior Warden George Pratt; Treasurer Aaron Twait; Clerk Catherine Jacobson; elected vestry members Denny Davis, Austin Ihiekwe, Alida Knoll, Jim Lee, Janeen Leick, Ann Marie Metzger, and John Potter

Absent: Elected vestry members Tory Hassenauer and Doug Sprinthall

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

Approval of vestry minutes: Denny moved that the minutes of the August 25th regular vestry meeting be approved. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Aaron presented the August 2009 balance sheet and the treasurer's report for January through August 2009. There were several items of note. Pledges were a little down this past month, which is usual for an August. Bright Horizons Backup Daycare made a building use donation, and we received an insurance refund. Two payments were made to the rector's pension. Some August items were deferred to September because of cash flow issues. Payments for our diocesan Apportionment for the Common Good (ACG) will be made in the fourth quarter. The vestry received the treasurer's report.

Stewardship and budget preparations for 2010: We began to talk about our parish's needs for 2010 and how we will approach a stewardship campaign. Ernie said that Aaron should work with the Finance & Legal team to put together a high-level draft budget that can be presented at the October vestry meeting. Janeen and the Stewardship team should develop a plan of how to approach stewardship that can also be presented at the meeting. Deb noted that last year people rallied and stretched themselves so that we could call Ernie as our rector; we need to sustain that energy and include others in it. Ernie noted that we also need to catch up on deferred building maintenance; we need, in fact, to have a longer range plan separate from stewardship.

Diocesan convention (October 30-31): Ernie reported that the draft convention agenda indicates that most business will be conducted Friday, including setting the ACG formula and the diocesan budget. Saturday will be devoted to the election of the new bishop. It will be important that our delegates have their credentials by noon Friday so that they can vote Friday afternoon and evening. In addition, they should be registered by October 1 in order to receive a lower

registration rate. Ernie will plan a meeting with the delegates and parishioners on Sunday, October 25 – before the convention but after the candidates for bishop have had their “meet and greets,” which are Monday, October 19 at St. Christopher's in Roseville (12 noon to 2 pm) and at Breck School’s chapel in Golden Valley (7 to 9 pm). At that meeting, he will share the convention agenda, discuss the ACG formula options, and allow parishioners to ask questions and share their thoughts. It is important that we all, but especially our delegates, be well-informed about the candidates. Ernie will schedule a Sunday in November to share with the parish the results of convention. The vestry discussed how the delegates were chosen and how to prepare ourselves for any disconnects between our personal views, our delegates’ views, and the convention outcomes. Ernie would like to talk to discuss during Adult Education how we as a church handle controversy. He reminded us that Jesus chose twelve very different people as disciples.

Ministry team reports:

Building & Grounds: Denny reported that another tree has been removed. Deb is working with Pierre LePere regarding the roof; they are talking with the company that did the initial work in 2001 and are hoping that they will stand behind their warranty. Denny noted that Pierre is finding a date for cleaning and waxing the floors. The windows have been scraped, painted, and patched, but some are in bad shape. Ann Marie suggested that the team keep a diary of maintenance and repair work.

Communication & Marketing: Catherine read Doug’s report. The team has publicized the Fall Festival with posters, flyers, the Woodbury Days parade, on-line events calendars, lawn signs, and our parish’s website and email – all for \$300. The bands will be performing for free, thus lowering our break-even point and allowing us to make more of a contribution to the Christian Cupboard. Doug praised the team and asked that the vestry hope for good weather on the day of the Festival.

Faith Formation: John reported that Sunday School begins September 27. Dana Fath Strande has prepared a booklet regarding the parish’s religious education opportunities. She is looking for additional teachers. The team’s budget will be tight. An Advent retreat will be Sunday, December 6 from 5 to 8 pm.

Finance & Legal: Aaron reported that the team did not meet last month; they will meet Monday and discuss the 2010 budget. Vestry members should contact Aaron or other team members if they have any thoughts on the budget. The team will also follow up on the signage issue and report to the vestry next month.

Inreach: Ann Marie reported that the team is meeting tomorrow night to discuss small groups.

Outreach: None

Stewardship: Janeen reported that the team did not meet.

Welcoming & Evangelism: None

Worship & Music: Jim reported that the team is meeting tomorrow night to discuss Christmas services.

Junior Warden's report: None

Senior Warden's report: Deb reported that she continues to hear about coffee hour. She asked that, if we see something in disarray, we put it right. Ernie noted that we need to strike a balance between using a public space and taking care of it.

Rector's report: None

Final review: Catherine reviewed our action items:

- Aaron will work with the Finance & Legal team to put together a high-level draft budget that can be presented at the October vestry meeting.
- Janeen and the Stewardship team should develop a plan of how to approach stewardship that can also be presented at the October vestry meeting.
- Our diocesan convention delegates should have their credentials by noon Friday so that they can vote Friday afternoon and evening. In addition, they should be registered by October 1 in order to receive a lower registration rate.
- Ernie will plan a meeting with the diocesan convention delegates and parishioners on Sunday, October 25 – before the convention but after the candidates for bishop have had their “meet and greets.” Ernie will schedule a Sunday in November to share with the parish the results of convention.
- Vestry members should contact Aaron or other Finance & Legal team members if they have any thoughts on the budget.
- Deb asked that, if we see something in disarray, we put it right.

Adjournment: Ernie Ashcroft closed the meeting with prayer at 8:35 pm.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk