

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2010
Christ Episcopal Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Ernie Ashcroft. We read John 2:1-11 (in which Jesus turns water into wine at the wedding at Cana) 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, Tory Hassenauer, Austin Ihiekwe, Alida Knoll, Jim Lee, Janeen Leick, Ann Marie Metzger, and Doug Sprinthall; and guests Mary Lee Isley, Chris Isley, and Kevin Isley

Absent: Elected vestry member John Potter

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

Approval of vestry minutes: Janeen moved that the minutes of the December 15th regular vestry meeting be approved, as amended to indicate that George Pratt was present. Motion carried. Catherine will amend and resend the minutes to the vestry.

Reappointment of the treasurer and clerk: Tory moved that Aaron be reappointed as the treasurer and Catherine be reappointed as the clerk, both with one-year terms. Aaron and Catherine accepted this nomination. Motion carried.

Vestry meeting dates for 2010: Denny moved that, beginning in February, vestry meetings be held at 7 pm on the third Monday of each month. Motion carried. Ernie will work with Mary Margaret to ensure that the new meeting dates are reflected on the parish calendar.

Finance report: Aaron presented the December 2009 balance sheet and the treasurer's report for January through December 2009. There were several items of note. We received ~\$18,000 in miscellaneous income in December; most of that was accelerated pledges from 2010 to cover the expected shortfall. December was, as usual, a great month for pledge income. We ended the year with ~\$255,000 in pledge income vs. the budgeted ~\$267,000, but total income was ~\$294,000 received vs. ~\$294,000 budgeted due to the accelerated pledges. Aaron noted that every 11 or 12 years we have 27 biweekly pay periods instead of 26; 2009 was one of those years. Therefore, it appears that we went over a bit on all salaries; however, in the other years, we are under a bit. In addition, the music director expenses were more than budgeted due to extra hours over the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. We fulfilled our diocesan Apportionment for the Common Good (ACG) commitment. We finished the year with a shortfall of ~\$3000. The vestry received the treasurer's report.

Stewardship results: Janeen reported that we now have 91 pledges for a total of ~\$262,600; the mean pledge is \$2886. Sixty-three pledging units increased their pledge vs. 2009; nine decreased; and 13 remained the same. We have six new pledges (i.e., they did not pledge in 2009), and we lost four families from 2009. Five families have said that they are unable to pledge this year, and six are yet to indicate their intention.

Budget for 2010: Aaron presented a proposed 2010 budget. The income side reflects ~\$264,000 in pledge income, realistic open plate and seasonal offerings, and some investment and miscellaneous income, totaling \$272,901. On the expense side, there were four major changes vs. 2009: an increase in the office budget, an increase for the new cleaning service, an increase for Loaves & Fishes, and a payment to Dana Fath Strande; because she declined the diocesan health plan to stay on her husband's plan this year, the budgeted amount covers their out-of-pocket expenses associated with that plan. The 2010 budget also reflects the new formula for calculating the diocesan Apportionment for the Common Good and the 2009 deficit of \$3069. Total budgeted expenses are \$295,333. We therefore have a 2010 budget deficit of \$22,333. The vestry then discussed how to close this deficit. "Plan A" is the result of a call that Ernie received, telling him that the church is to be the recipient of a ~\$30,000 bequest. "Plan B" would involve a combination of spending cuts and revenue increases. Doug moved that the vestry adopt the proposed 2010 budget and regularly review our financial situation in order to resolve the deficit. Motion carried.

Annual meeting: A celebration dinner will be held on Saturday, January 30. The vestry will help get ready for the dinner, serve the dinner, and clean up afterwards. A single service will be held at 9 am on Sunday, January 31, with the annual meeting following. The vestry is to bring one to two dozen bite-sized treats, to supplement coffee hour Team 8's contributions. Sunday's agenda will include recognizing the wardens and departing vestry members, electing the wardens and new vestry members, a presentation of the 2010 budget, and the rector's report. Current nominees are John Potter for senior warden; Janeen Leick for junior warden; and Tina Egwim, Shannon Erickson, and George Ham for vestry members. In February, Janeen will resign her vestry seat, and the vestry will appoint someone to fill that seat until the next annual meeting, when the parish will vote upon a replacement. Dana will arrange a children's program for during the annual meeting.

Ministry team reports:

Building & Grounds: Denny thanked Aaron and Ernie for their help shoveling snow. The team has put together and distributed to the vestry a capital expenditure report; it will be reviewed at a later date.

Communication & Marketing: Doug reported that the team did not meet. He said that serving on vestry has been a tremendous experience for him and helps to make one feel part of the church community.

Faith Formation: Catherine read John's report. The youth ministry team will meet in January. As a pilgrimage fundraiser, the Quest youth group will be serving a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on Tuesday, February 16 from 5:30-7 pm; the vestry is

encouraged to attend and invite friends. On Wednesdays during Lent there will be a soup supper at 5:30 pm, followed by a program or service at 7 pm. In addition, there will be a potluck dinner on Sunday, February 21 at 5 pm followed by a one-man play by Jay Hornbacher at 6 pm; the evening will conclude with discussion and dessert at 7 pm. A labyrinth will be available for an evening of reflection on Sunday, March 28.

Finance & Legal: Aaron reported that the team met last night. They will look at the bylaws for needed updates.

Inreach: None

Outreach: None

Stewardship: Janeen had nothing more to report. However, she reminded the vestry to provide updates to the 2008 programs and activities brochure.

Welcoming & Evangelism: Tory reported that the growth group did not meet this month; they will try to meet in February.

Worship & Music: Jim reported that the team will meet next Tuesday. Austin said that he has had a wonderful three years on the vestry, and he looks forward to serving again.

Junior Warden's report: George said that, in his five years of serving as a vestry member and junior warden, the parish has come a long way. He expressed his thanks to Ernie for his good pastoral care, preaching, and administration. He also expressed gratitude for the other committed people of Christ Church.

Senior Warden's report: Deb said that she has enjoyed her three years as a vestry member and one year as senior warden. She is excited about the parish's mood and tempo. She said thank you to all.

Rector's report: Ernie praised both George and Deb for their service as wardens. He is especially appreciative of George's thoughtful consideration of the issues and his faithfulness. Ernie is grateful for Deb's ability to quickly focus in on an issue and lay out options; she has done a fabulous job as senior warden. Ernie feels that the vestry reflects the congregation – fun, smart, committed, hard-working. He thanked the out-going vestry members – Doug, Austin, and John – as well as the families that share their members with the vestry.

Final review: Catherine reviewed our action items:

- Catherine will amend and resend the minutes of the December 15th regular vestry meeting to the vestry.
- Ernie will work with Mary Margaret to ensure that the new vestry meeting dates are reflected on the parish calendar.
- The vestry will help get ready for the celebration dinner on January 30, serve the dinner, and clean up afterwards.
- The vestry is to bring one to two dozen bite-sized treats for the January 31st annual meeting.

- The vestry is encouraged to attend and invite friends to the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner.
- Updates to our 2008 programs and activities brochure should be provided to Janeen as soon as possible.

Adjournment: Ernie Ashcroft closed the meeting with prayer at 8:46 pm.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk