

Minutes of Regular Vestry Meeting  
Monday, February 15, 2010  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Ernie Ashcroft. We read Luke 4:1-13 (in which Jesus is tempted by the Devil for 40 days) 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 Jesus calling me 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, Tina Egwim, Shannon Erickson, George Ham, Jim Lee, and Ann Marie Metzger

**Absent:** Elected vestry members Tory Hassenauer and Alida Knoll

**Reading in of those elected to vestry and as wardens:** Catherine read in those elected to one-year terms as wardens (John Potter as senior warden and Janeen Leick as junior warden) and those elected to three-year terms as vestry members (Tina Egwim, Shannon Erickson, and George Ham).

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

**Approval of vestry minutes:** Jim moved that the minutes of the January 19th regular vestry meeting be approved. Motion carried.

**Review of annual meeting and minutes:** The vestry reviewed the minutes of the January 31st annual meeting and noted one typographical error, which Catherine will fix. The minutes will be approved by the parish at the next annual meeting. The vestry reviewed the annual meeting. Ernie noted that he had intended to read a list of and remember those who died during the year; these minutes are a reminder to do that during the 2011 annual meeting. Denny suggested also recognizing those who had been members of the parish for 50 or more years. It was noted that there seemed to be fewer people present at this meeting than usual, although approximately 110 people were present at the single service that morning. The vestry discussed having the celebration dinner after the annual meeting, rather than the night before. Janeen suggested finding out why some people didn't attend the meeting.

**Finance report:** Aaron presented the January 2010 balance sheet and the treasurer's report for January 2010. There were several items of note. We received ~\$22,700 in pledge income. We made a property insurance payment, and the utility bill was fairly high, due to the winter weather. The monthly salary for the parish life minister was higher than usual because Dana Fath Strande receives quarterly bonuses of \$2550 to cover her out-of-pocket expenses for her husband's health insurance plan. The hospitality line item shows a negative expense due to donations received for the celebration dinner; they will be offset by the expenses that will come

in in February. Aaron explained that we do not make regular, monthly payments toward our diocesan Apportionment for the Common Good (ACG) because of our lack of cash cushion; we tend to pay most of our ACG in the later part of the year. The vestry discussed the need to know the true cost of parish programs, which may be masked by in-kind donations. The vestry received the treasurer's report.

**Gift from charitable remainder trust:** Our church was listed as a beneficiary of the Mary L. Vernon Charitable Remainder Trust. Ms. Vernon left us 10% of her trust, which should be ~\$34,000. Aaron has sent in the paperwork, and we should receive the gift in March or April. There are no restrictions on the use of the money. Its allocation will be discussed at the Finance & Legal team meeting, and the team will come to the vestry meeting with recommendations. Vestry members are encouraged to provide Aaron with input as to how the gift should be spent. Because the ACG formula changes at \$300,000 in parish income, we want to avoid crossing that line in 2010; it would result in an increase of ~\$6000 in our ACG.

**Appointment to fill vestry vacancy:** Because Janeen was elected as junior warden at the annual meeting, she resigned her vestry member position. When a vestry vacancy occurs, the vestry appoints a replacement until the annual meeting, when someone will be elected to fill the remainder of the term. The executive committee has discussed potential appointments, considering the gender balance of the vestry and the racial diversity of the parish in doing so. Denny moved that Ernie approach the executive committee's list of several potential appointees one at a time, until one accepts. Motion carried.

**Vestry workshop:** The annual vestry workshop is a team-building event that clarifies what vestry membership entails. It is usually held 9 am to 2 pm on a Saturday at an offsite location. Shannon will let Ernie know her work travel plans, and then Ernie will decide between March 20 and April 17 for the workshop.

### **Ministry team reports:**

Building & Grounds: Denny said that some small repairs have been done, and snow is being removed, thanks to volunteers. Denny showed the vestry documentation that Pierre LePere prepared on the boiler room. The team wants to train some volunteers on that manual and post the names of those trained in case of emergency.

Communication & Marketing: None

Faith Formation: John called the vestry's attention to the Wednesday Lenten services and the Lenten retreat on February 21; the vestry is encouraged to attend these offerings. Dana has praised the parents of the youth that will make a pilgrimage next year for their fundraising work. Imani Jaafar-Mohammed recently talked about Islam at the adult education hour. One main component of her religious community is social justice, and she is interested in collaborating with our church.

Finance & Legal: Aaron reported that the team did not meet.

Inreach: Ann Marie praised the Inreach team and other volunteers for doing a great job on the celebration dinner and the annual meeting reception. The team continues to help parishioners during illnesses and other times of need.

Outreach: Denny noted that the Backstreet Grill on South Robert Street has been providing the main course for our night of Loaves and Fishes, and that he wants to continue doing that. He and his wife have visited with a thank you note. Janeen suggested we patronize his business and let him know we appreciate his generosity.

Stewardship: None

Welcoming & Evangelism: None

Worship & Music: Jim reported that the team met and reviewed the Christmas services. They will plan for next Christmas in September. The team discussed plans for Lent and Easter. The orchestra will be playing at the Easter vigil service and on Sunday morning. Jim noted that there is a reception after the Easter vigil service. Deb Hsu wants to use some time during the adult education hour to talk about lecturing.

**Junior Warden's report:** None

**Senior Warden's report:** None

**Rector's report:** Ernie went to the bishop's ordination last Saturday. He thought it was a great service that, through language and music, reflected the diversity of the diocese. Ernie said that Rodger and Jan Pereyra and Bill and Judy Heck worked very hard all day to prepare the celebration dinner; he encouraged the vestry to thank them. Ernie also noted that he is going to Rochester tomorrow because John Hunkins is having surgery at Mayo; he asked that we keep the Hunkins family in our prayers.

**Final review:** Catherine reviewed our action items:

- Vestry members are encouraged to provide Aaron with input as to how the charitable remainder trust gift should be spent.
- Ernie will approach the executive committee's list of several potential appointees one at a time, until one accepts.
- Shannon will let Ernie know her work travel plans, and then Ernie will decide between March 20 and April 17 for the vestry workshop.
- The vestry was encouraged to take advantage of the Lenten worship and study offerings.
- The vestry was encouraged to patronize the Backstreet Grill because of the owner's generosity toward Loaves and Fishes.
- The vestry was encouraged to thank Rodger and Jan Pereyra and Bill and Judy Heck for all their hard work in preparing the celebration dinner.
- The vestry was asked to keep the Hunkins family in our prayers.

There was some further discussion on the 2010 budget and the potential uses of the gift from the charitable remainder trust.

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

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk