

Vestry Meeting Minutes
03/22/10

Attendance:

Voting – Paul Harrington (Sr. Warden), Ed Skea, Angela Simpson, Dave Simpson (Clerk), Bob Uerz, Laura Buel (Assistant Treasurer), Diane Holland, Ruth Beard (Jr. Warden), Richard Herrmann, Dick Mansfield

Non-Voting – Maggie Thompson, Susan Ohlidal (Diocesan Ministry Developer), Leslie Black (Diocesan Companion), Ann Grady (Interim Pastor)

Opening Prayer: Led by Ann

General Business:

Minutes – Adopted minutes from last meeting. (**See Resolutions**) Reviewed Action Items from last meeting.

Interim Pastor's Report – Ann indicated that she is scheduled to be traveling April 26th – May 3rd for a CREDO conference, so supply clergy will be needed (**ACTION ITEM!**) for Sunday May 2nd. She indicated that she has met with Sr. Laurian and they are looking at how to divvy up the services/scheduling. There may be some services/responsibilities that Ann is not able to take on at this time, but she and Sr. Laurian have another meeting scheduled to discuss this further. She has also met with Jackie.
She is currently using the rector@christchurchvt.org email address.

Properties – Ruth presented on the state of the building. She ordered the CFL bulbs to replace the ones that are out in the kitchen and church, which should be here next week. This takes the electricity usage in the Sanctuary from 200 watts per bulb to 55 watts.

The plumber was here and removed the urinal from the bathroom and installed supports under the drainpipes in the kitchen and replaced the faucet. She indicated that she had had one conversation that led her to think there may be some resistance to removal of the urinal, but the group agreed that it was necessary.

There was a Sacred Places meeting on the Saturday past, and there was discussion of capital campaigns and the like, with the idea being that it can take a year to launch a capital campaign when the research on the parish's receptiveness is factored in. The point was that if there are structural issues that may cause injury/permanent damage to the building, there may not be enough time to organize and launch a capital campaign, so we must look at taking money out of savings/endowments, taking a loan, or other means if such safety issues arise.

It was agreed that Vestry members would review (**ACTION ITEM!**) the detailed building assessment for the next Vestry meeting, and Paul agreed (**ACTION ITEM**) to budget 25 minutes on the next agenda for discussion thereof.

Communications – The Chronicle is in its final stages, and is set for publication the last week in March. Dave agreed (**ACTION ITEM!**) to include information about the blog/website in the Chronicle.

It was brought up that Vestry Meetings should be put in the Service Bulletins to encourage members of the Congregation to attend if they wish. Diane agreed (**ACTION ITEM!**) to include these meetings in the Service Bulletins.

Lay Reader Scheduling – Rilla Murray is stepping down from this ministry, and Angela has agreed to take it on at this time (insert general applause). Paul agreed (**ACTION ITEM!**) to get the certificates and information he has to her to begin scheduling.

Ministry Discernment Committee – Susan introduced Leslie as the most experienced Companion that they have, and indicated that while the Diocesan “team” consists of various people consisting of Susan, Leslie, the Bishop, and Lynn Bates, Leslie will be our primary point of contact during this process of forming and working with the Ministry Discernment Committee (MDC). There was some discussion of how such a committee would be formed, and it was agreed that Bob (**ACTION ITEM!**) would create an outreach letter to start the congregation thinking about participating in the MDC. While the concept of timelines was discussed at length and with some vigor, with the goal of not rushing the process and allowing the process to “take as long as it takes,” it was agreed that we would try to have a letter together by Easter to insert into the bulletin so that we can reach the largest number of Congregants, including those who have not been in attendance regularly. If it is available in time we would also include this letter in the Chronicle mailing, and Dick M (**ACTION ITEM!**) would post it on the blog.

The Vestry would consider how many to have on the Committee (usually 5-10), and be prepared to be intentional about the people that it appoints to the Committee. It is not recommended to just “fill the slots” by taking the first ten people who sign up, but rather to solicit a pool of candidates, then select those who can commit the time (including giving up their other ministries temporarily if required), and who are “broad of heart and mind,” who have no agenda, and who represent as broad a cross section of the Congregation as possible. The MDC should not include staff or Wardens. The Vestry would have 1-2 representatives on the MDC. The Vestry would determine the compensation package for the new Rector, the budget for the MDC (travel expenses, etc.), let the MDC know how many candidates it wants to look at, and do the final hire.

Ann will be involved with the Transition Team, but not as a member of the MDC. Open communication between Diocese, Interim Pastor, Vestry, and MDC was encouraged, and there are regular meetings built into the Diocesan model to make sure everything progresses as it needs to.

Leslie will not be at every meeting of the MDC, as the MDC will have its own chair, but will be available by email and telephone as needed, and can travel to attend meetings upon request.

Regarding the process, it was stressed that the process has changed significantly since the last time Christ Church went through it, with the focus shifting from Search to Discernment. The MDC will spend time discovering what Christ Church’s mission and ministry is and where it wants to be, then finding the best match in a clergyperson who has the gifts and skills to partner with us in moving that mission and ministry forward, as opposed to a more traditional search and hire process that has parallels in the corporate/business community.

Financial:

Pledges – Laura reports that pledging is only down \$3000 from last year, which is encouraging. Last year we were at \$123,092, this year \$120, 472. There are 13 people who pledged in 2009 who have yet to pledge this year, totaling \$13,710. In addition to this number are 11 whose pledges decreased. This is offset by 9 new pledges and 21 increases.

Resolutions:

A motion was proposed and adopted to accept the minutes from the 3/8 meeting.

Closing Prayer: Dick Mansfield

Next Meeting April 12th