

Christ Church Vestry Meeting Minutes  
July 12, 2011

**Attendance:**

Voting: - Paul Harrington, Ruth Beard, Ed Skea, Josh Fitzhugh, Sharon Winn Fannon, Diane Holland, Dick Herrmann, Steve Reynes, Bob Uerz. Non-Voting: Rev Ann Grady, Maggie Thompson, John Jaworski, Martha Holden, Sara Baker-Whitcomb

**General Business:**

1. The meeting came to order at 7:10 pm at the offices of the Vermont Medical Society.
2. The minutes from June 13 were approved unanimously with correction of a typographical error.
3. Updates on June 13 Actions

PIP: Paul reported Partners in Peace (PIP) has found a new host site.

Deed Research: Paul researched the deed exchange with the Heneys from 1981 and discovered the quit claim deeds granting the SE triangle to allow construction of the parish house were never recorded with the city. Paul will follow up with the Heneys to complete the transaction and ensure it's duly recorded with the city. (ACTION)

During Paul's research, he discovered other deed-related loose ends.

There is a 1984 deed between the church and the City of Montpelier that shows the city contributed ½ the costs to build the park. The arrangement granted the city the right to use the park as quasi-public space for ten years. While Christ Church has happily allowed the city to continue its use of the park space, it's time to have a clarifying conversation with the city to be sure the terms of the arrangement are clear between the parties. Josh suggested we ask the city to help repair the benches in the park, in exchange for continued use. Steve will contact the city to discuss. (ACTION)

In 1982 the city granted easements for parking, allowing a 10 foot right of way to allow shared ownership of the parking spaces along the Memorial Garden. The parking spaces are half owned by Christ Church, and half by Capital Plaza. Paul also believes the church owns a right of way that extends beyond the church parking spaces in back of the building.

4. Interim Pastor Report

Ann and Ed had an informal discussion about recent high school graduates that prompted Ann to send congratulatory notes to recent Montpelier high school and college graduates.

Jean Jersey will meet with people on Wednesdays in August in the courtyard or garden to share faith stories.

Ann is working on ordering pledge envelopes for 2012. She wondered we need “chronicle offering” envelopes. The group agreed we don’t.

Representatives from the Church of Holy Cross in Weare, NH will be coming on July 31 to hear Ann preach.

## 5. Priest in Partnership Process

Paul talked with Susan Ohlidal from the Bishop’s office. Susan said Christ Church’s profile and call for priest in partnership has received a good response. Applicants are now working on the essay questions approved at the June 13 meeting. Paul warns that the August/September timeframe in the process will be very busy, with three or more meetings between planning meetings with the diocese team and then the interview itself. Once the Bishop selects a nominee for Christ Church, the vestry and MDC will meet with Susan and Lynn Bates to hear why the Bishop selected this particular person for us. Susan and Lynn also want a meeting with the interview team to coach the group on the tone of the interview. If possible, Paul would like to these two meetings to occur back-to-back on the same date.

The nominee will likely be in Montpelier for at least two days at the time of the interview. At that time the interview team will have a formal interview, and all members of the vestry and MDC will have a chance to meet the nominee informally.

After the interview days, the vestry will meet to hear from the interview team and vote on whether to call or not call the nominee.

Bob and Maggie also talked to Susan Ohlidal to review details of the interview process and prepare themselves to recommend a team to the vestry. Susan advised that we think about the interview team with an eye to talents and skills. Susan outlined the following qualities for members of the interview team: good listener, ability to set aside one’s own agenda, ability to see the big picture, ability to reflect, and familiar with what the MDC heard from the congregation. Susan also recommends a maximum of seven people for the formal interview team. The entire MDC and vestry will have a chance to meet the nominee, although it is ultimately the vestry’s responsibility to affirm the nominee.

Bob and Maggie recommended four individuals from the MDC to participate in the interview team: Peter Mallory, Pat Carruth, Maggie Thompson, and Bob Uerz. Bob is also a member of the vestry. After some discussion, the vestry suggested adding Ed Skea, Diane Holland, Paul Harrington, and Sharon Winn Fannon to the interview team. Ruth asked to not be included in the interview team because she expects she’ll spend plenty of time with the nominee in the context of providing a tour of the building. The vestry also noted that having eight members is only one more than the recommended seven, and acknowledges that for one reason or another during the busy summer,

someone may not be available on the actual interview date once known. After motion duly made and seconded, the following group was approved as the interview team: Peter, Pat, Maggie, Bob, Ed, Diane, Paul, and Sharon.

Maggie spoke to the issue Susan calls “containment and confidentiality.” Once the nominee is known, it’s important to respect confidentiality of the person as much as reasonably possible. The nominee may not have informed his or her current parish of the possible change, the vestry may for some reason not approve the nominee, etc.

Final details of the visit depend on the nominee. What is known is that the formal interview will happen at Paul’s house, and Paul will also host dinner for the entire MDC and vestry after the interview.

Susan offered three dates to meet with the interview team: July 14, August 1, and August 16. The group agreed July 14 is too soon and settled on August 16 at 6, before the regular vestry meeting at 7. If by August 16 the nominee is known, then at that time the vestry and MDC can also have the discussion in which they hear from the diocese why this particular nominee was selected. If the nominee is not known by August 16, there will still be a future meeting with the diocese for that purpose.

## 6. Finance Committee Report

Ed noted that 47 percent of pledges are in, so relatively speaking we are on target. Brian Loftus intends to send mid-year notices to people who have pledged or given in the past.

There are a couple of items off budget in the 5144 category. Ed asks that when people sign off on purchases, they be aware of where the money comes from in the budget and whether there’s enough in that account for the expense.

Ruth asked about contracting for fuel for the coming winter. The church currently buys from Gillespie. Service has been good and they deliver promptly. There was discussion about whether the lock-in at a price, pre-buy the entire amount (\$20,000 – the church doesn’t have that money available); or simply pay market price at the time of delivery. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the vestry approved unanimously authorizing Ruth to get the best possible deal with whatever information is available on Wednesday, July 13.

At its next meeting the Finance Committee will start talking about budget and stewardship for 2012. Ed pointed out that both he and Ruth leave the vestry in 2012, and there will be no one who is on both the vestry and the Finance Committee. Ed suggested someone from vestry join the finance committee now, to ensure continuity. Josh volunteered and is available for the August 8 meeting.

Martha Holden and Sara Baker-Whitcomb were in attendance representing the Sudan Communion. The group is planning a trip to Sudan next fall to help mothers learn about care for children. Deb Jerard is the medical director for the trip; Alex Baker-Whitcomb is

doing publicity and handling youth ministry. They are working to raise money for the trip and would like a separate account within the church budget so people can make donations. Martha and Sara asked whether donations to the Sudan Communion are acknowledged. Ed said any gift of \$500 or greater must be personally acknowledged. Upon motion duly made and seconded it was agreed unanimously to have the treasurer set up an account for the Sudan Communion with a special offering item number.

#### 7. Buildings Committee Report

Ruth reminded the vestry of the workday scheduled for Saturday, July 16 from 9 – 12.

Ruth reported that the Montpelier City Manager is telling vendors they can have the same place as last year, although the vendor spots are actually on church property. The problem is there is a vendor who blocks wheelchair access to the courtyard. Ruth also noted the ice cream vendor near Julios is likely not in a legal space.

The insurance adjusters asked Ruth to get a second estimate to fix the basement. **She will do that and then proceed with getting an insurance check. (ACTION)** We need to decide, though, what use the basement will likely have.

The bell tower repairs are complete, although they were more of a “band-aid” than hoped for because we couldn’t afford all the repairs. So far, though, the roof doesn’t seem to be leaking. Diane can use the bell now!

#### 8. Communication Efforts

Dick Herrmann reports the website seems to be going well. Dick thanked Diane for getting the Chronicle out. There was discussion about publishing another chronicle in September, around the time we call a Priest in Partnership.

We talked about having a transition section in the Chronicle to share graduation announcements, anniversaries, birthdays, etc. Dick and Diane will develop a form that can be distributed with Sunday bulletins. People can give to the usher, or put in the plate, to share information.

9. The next meeting of the Vestry will be on August 16.

#### 10. Other Business

The Vestry went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Jean Jersey suggests name tags a church. Ann will put an announcement in the bulletin about it.

Bob thanked the group for being flexible about the meeting night.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted

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Sharon Winn Fannon, Secretary