

Vestry Meeting Minutes
08/09/10

Attendance:

Voting – Ruth Beard (Junior Warden), Paul Harrington (Senior Warden), Angela Simpson, Ed Skea, Bob Uerz (MDC co-chair), Dick Mansfield, Diane Holland, Dave Simpson (Clerk), Dick Herrmann

Non-Voting –Ann Grady (Interim Pastor), John Jaworski (Assistant Treasurer), Sarah Baker (Treasurer),

Opening Prayer: Led by Paul

General Business:

Minutes – Adopted minutes from last meeting with one amendment (**See Resolutions**). Reviewed Action Items from last meeting. Ann indicated (**ACTION ITEM!**) that she would take a first pass at a basic Pew Card.

Interim Pastor's Report – Ann listed recent and upcoming events, including the recent Baptism, the funeral for Leo DuPont this Saturday, the MDC Commissioning 8/22. She also indicated that Jean Jersey would be Supplying for her on 9/5, as she will be away.

She received a call, a referral from the Diocese of VT, for two men who desired to have a same-sex marriage. Since she is Canonically resident in Wisconsin, not Vermont, she contacted her Bishop, who indicated that she should not perform the ceremony. There were other priests in our Parish/Community who are able to perform the service, and volunteered to do so. Ann stressed that she cannot perform the service, not that she would not perform the service, and asked that we be mindful of that difference, especially if this enters the Parish dialogue.

MDC – Bob indicated that they are continuing to meet every two weeks. Their upcoming meeting on the 16th will be exploring the different models of leadership that exist in the Diocese of Vermont. Regarding communicating progress with the Diocese, he indicated that in addition to the Chronicle and the Blog, they would be making use of the Bulletin Board. Bob indicated that they are not at the point of moving on the financial aspects, but will give the Vestry ample time to consider these issues when that time approaches.

Financial – Sarah distributed a copy of a report showing 2010 YTD Actual compared with 2010 Budget. There was not a balance sheet available for this meeting, and Paul requested that one be brought for the next meeting. There was some discussion of the report, and on the whole the group saw nothing that was necessarily out of the ordinary. Sarah did indicate that she would be touching base (**ACTION ITEM!**) with Ida and Bryan to more accurately account for Hospitality vs. Fundraising, as the overlap has been difficult to disentangle thus far. One item that can be addressed is the postage, especially relating to the distribution of the Chronicle. It was agreed that Dick/Dave would publish in the upcoming Chronicle (**ACTION ITEM!**) a blurb giving people the option of opting out of receiving the paper version. There was some question as to whether we were experiencing the traditional summer giving drop, and Sarah indicated that she had not seen anything like that necessarily, possibly due to the number of people using the EFT system. She agreed (**ACTION ITEM!**) to pull a pledge report and have numbers for the next meeting.

Regarding offering envelopes, Ann has been worked with Brian and ended up reducing our standing order from 100 sets to 50 sets, as we currently have 66 “pledging units”, 28 of which use envelopes. Ann indicated (**ACTION ITEM!**) that she would talk with Brian to determine the best time to send the envelopes out.

Paul indicated that some statements from our investments are still being mailed to people who were involved with the finances in the past, even though they may no longer be serving in this capacity. Recognizing that it takes a formal request to change this, John and Sarah agreed (**ACTION ITEM!**) to draft a letter that would allow us to make these changes.

Regarding the Altar Guild, and payments from the Taplin fund, the group created a resolution clarifying the appropriate distribution of these funds. (**See Resolutions**)

Properties – Dick indicated, and Sarah confirmed, that the \$7500 McClure Grant for building repairs was received.

Ruth indicated that in an effort to recruit and empower members of the congregation in response to our building needs, she would be creating a list of jobs that parishioners could take on or contribute to, and would publish the list on the Blog and the bulletin board.

Regarding the recent repairs to the front doors, the more severely damaged side was repaired, but the other side, since it was not fully cracked, was put on the lower priority list since it is still functional. Diane reported that she was having some trouble with the non-repaired side.

Sr. Laurian had indicated that it was her understanding that the floor of the Auditorium was somehow structurally compromised, which would impact how we would be able to use it. The structural engineer agreed to take some measurements and calculate load to determine if this is indeed the case.

Regarding the front corner of the Church, Jamie (restoration guy) indicated that there is not sufficient time to make repairs this year, so we will need to consider how we are going to enclose that area for the winter so that further damage does not occur. It was brought up that we should pay some attention to the aesthetic considerations that would arise with such a jacket, since the physical beauty of the structure is part of what draws people here.

Ruth indicated that it would cost about \$400 to install a fan in the downstairs bathroom. The Vestry agreed that this was within the discretion of the Jr. Warden’s position, and that she could move on this as she sees fit.

A proposal had been received by Ruth earlier in the week regarding what to do with the books/library in the auditorium, and had been distributed to the Vestry earlier in the week. The proposal was created by Sr. Laurian, and was born from conversations she had been having with Joanne Sabens, Jackie Mills-Brown, and Martha Holden, and outlined their desire that the books should be sent to various organizations and the Sudan, if those organizations wanted them. In addition, Paul had had a conversation with a member of the congregation who has access to a professional who would be able to look at what we have and make an appraisal for value. After much discussion, the group agreed on a four-step process.

1. We would obtain the official appraisal, with the outcome being the books divided into three categories. Books we want to keep for use by our Parish, Books that may have some value to sell, and Books that are suitable for recycling.

2. Once this appraisal is complete, the group that made the aforementioned proposal, would take those books that they felt suitable for distribution to other agencies.
3. Once this second group is finished, the Congregation would be given a one shot opportunity to peruse what was left, and take what they wished.
4. The remaining books will be Kept, Sold, or Recycled depending on how they were originally sorted.

Paul agreed (**ACTION ITEM!**) to coordinate the appraisal, and contact the originators of the donation proposal to let them know what had been decided, and report back to the Vestry at the next meeting.

Dick M reported that Ida has been working upstairs sorting the “treasures”, and would like to try to sell the items before Labor Day. It was resolved (**See Resolutions**) that Dick would assist with the decision-making.

Pat Goodrich had contacted Ruth about adding an additional grab bar in the bathroom off the parish hall, closest to the exit door, and is willing to pay for it. Some concerns that were raised were that we do not know the status of the wall to which it will be attached, the fact that the toilet technically needs to be raised to comply with ADA specs, and if we begin making those changes, we would be obligated to comply with all ADA specs, which we earnestly desire to do, but lack the funds to pursue at this time given the extensive building needs in other areas. After discussion, it was agreed that Ruth (**ACTION ITEM!**) would discuss the concerns the Vestry discussed with Pat.

Sarah brought up the idea of renting the kitchen space to a restaurant/catering outfit that had recently closed. There was brief discussion of this, but no specific actions recommended. It did trigger further discussion of the need for a formal building use policy, to include the use of alcohol. Ann and Ruth agreed (**ACTION ITEM!**) to meet with Ida to discuss this.

Communications – Dick H reviewed the various topics for the upcoming Chronicle. He clarified for the group that all submissions should come to him directly, and not to Dave. Angela agreed (**ACTION ITEM!**) to write the official announcement about the opening of the Stewardship Chair position, as well as a call for other members.

Other business –

Agenda items for next meeting –

Resolutions:

A motion was proposed and adopted to accept the minutes from the 7/12 meeting with one amendment. Relating to the transfer of funds from the Diocesan Unit Fund to the General Fund to cover building repairs, Sarah and John agreed (ACTION ITEM!) to track this on a separate ledger account.

A motion was proposed and adopted regarding the distribution of interest earned on the Taplin Fund. The Treasurer is hereby authorized to release to the Altar Guild on a Quarterly basis, interest generated by the Taplin Fund, in an amount equal to 25% of the interest or \$50, whichever is lesser.

A motion was proposed and adopted empowering Dick Mansfield to decide without further input from the Vestry, which items selected by Ida to sell may indeed be sold. Further, once the items are

decided upon, the Vestry authorizes Ida to sell them, with proceeds to be deposited in the General Fund.

Closing Prayer: Led by Ann

Next Meeting September 13th