

Vestry Meeting Minutes
09/20/10

Attendance:

Voting – Ruth Beard (Junior Warden), Paul Harrington (Senior Warden), Diane Holland, Ed Skea, Bob Uerz, Laura Buel

Non-Voting – Ann Grady (Interim Pastor), John Jaworski (Assistant Treasurer), Sarah Baker (Treasurer), Ida Lange, Sharon Wilson, Sr. Laurian Seeber

Opening Prayer: Led by Ann

General Business:

Minutes - The minutes from the 08/09/10 meeting were adopted and the action items reviewed. Ann passed around a first draft of a pew card she developed. Ruth has installed a grab rail in the bathroom closest to the exit door.

Vermont Interfaith Action funding – Sharon Wilson, reported that the Diocese has awarded a matching grant to the VIA for \$2000. She asked if Christ Church would contribute \$1500 toward the matching portion, as \$500 has been donated by Beth Ann Maier. The past two years we have contributed \$1000. Ed moved for the church to contribute \$1500 this year to the VIA and Ruth seconded the motion. Motion passed. (**Action Item**)

Auditorium Book Collection Committee and Policy – Paul described a meeting he had with Sr. Laurian, Joan Sabens, Martha Holden, and Jackie Mills-Brown on August 15, about how to handle the removal and distribution of the books in the auditorium. His proposed book policy would appoint these four as the committee to accomplish this task. Sr. Laurian described the process in which the books will be distributed. She and Martha have been hard at work organizing and inventorying the books. Sr. Laurian has been gleaning some of the books to become part of a Christ Church permanent library in the meditation room. Mary Mansfield, Stephen Reynes, and Jackie Mills-Brown have been assisting with this gleaning process. The owner of Plainfield Book Store is coming on Tuesday to cherry-pick any books he wants and will probably pay something for them. The rest of the books will be divided between two seminaries in the United States, and a seminary in the Sudan. Joan Sabens has found homes for the the bookcases. The intention is that all the books will be out by Dec. 31, 2010. Ed Skea moved to accept the book policy. Diane seconded. Motion passed. (Details regarding postage later in meeting.)

Interim Pastor's Report - Ann Grady reported that \$100 has been donated to Episcopal Relief and Development in memory of Bob Gibson. Ann met with Diane Holland and Brian Webb to discuss details of the Advent and Christmas services. Since Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) is on a Friday this year, it made sense for Lessons and Carols to be on Thursday, Dec. 16. Christ Church will be hosting the last meeting of the Sacred Places program on Nov. 13. Bishop Ely is slated to attend. Stephen Reynes will be preaching on Nov. 7, the day after the Diocesan Convention. On Monday Nov. 22, Mary Mansfield will perform the ceremony to marry the two gay men that Ann wasn't authorized to perform. Her Wisconsin bishop did not give her permission.

Ministry Discernment Committee update– Bob Uerz reported that the committee is continuing to

meet every two weeks. At this point in the process, the committee needs an updated list of current parishioners as it is forming “cottage meeting” groups. These are small groups of parishioners who will meet at church or in homes and will discuss the following questions: Why is this place important to you? How did you happen to come here? Why do you stay? These meetings will be posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall. Later on Ann Grady will be educating the parish from the pulpit about baptismal ministry. Congregational feedback will culminate with a parish-wide Congregational Discernment Meeting on Dec. 7. At that meeting we will be discussing in small groups the following three questions: Who are we now? Who is God calling us to be? What gifts and skill do we need, both from ourselves and from clergy leadership, to get there?

Financial – Ann reported that she eliminated a continuing monthly charge of \$32 on the phone bill by canceling a dedicated fax line. Sarah reported the diocesan assessment has been paid up through July. We discussed the need to withdraw funds from the diocesan unit trust to pay for some the major building restoration repairs that will occur this fall and winter. These funds can only be requested at the end of each quarter and the Sept. 30 deadline is approaching. (**Action Item**) Bob Uerz moved to authorize Ruth to direct Sarah to request a withdrawal of funds of up to \$15,000 from the diocesan unit trust fund for building repairs. Diane Holland seconded. Motion passed. The finance committee, consisting of Ed, Ruth, Laura, Sarah, and John, arranged to meet on Monday, Oct. 4 to begin work on the 2011 budget. (**Action Item**)

Book Collection Postage Contributions and Grants – Substantial sums of postage are required to send the books to their destinations. Sr. Laurian explained that Martha Holden will drive some of the books to St. Mary's Convent in Greenwich, NY. Of the rest, the quarter of them that will go to the Sudan Communion will cost \$3,000 to send, and the rest going to Arizona will cost about \$1,000. This \$4000 will come from the following sources: \$1000 from the Sudan Communion, \$1000 from the Diocese in the form of a 2:1 matching grant to go toward the Sudan postage, \$1000 from Sr. Laurian, and the final \$1000 or part thereof from contributions Sr. Laurian is coordinating. It is understood that any money received from the Plainfield Book Store will also go toward the postage. A motion was made by Ruth to establish two dedicated pass-through accounts for this project, one for the domestic postage and one for the overseas postage, and apply for a grant from the Diocese to pay for part of the overseas postage, conditional on getting a letter from the Diocese that the accounts are consistent with IRS requirements. Diane seconded. Motion passed. (**Action Item**)

Status of the Auditorium Clean-up and Sale – Ida Lange spoke about the progress that has been made on organizing the various storage rooms in the church. The housewares room in the basement has been fully cleaned out and the items able to be sold moved to the auditorium, and the former housewares room has now become the Food Shelf storage room. Now that Bill Beard has moved all the food items from the storage room across the hall (next to the furnace room), this room is available for Linda Hogan to clean up all her jewelry-making materials and move them down there. Ida has planned a church sale in the auditorium for Oct. 2 and Oct. 9 to sell all the accumulated unneeded furniture and housewares. (**Action Item**) The auditorium has been the site of consistent work recently, with Martha and Ida working with the books, and Ida and Laura preparing for the sale. Ruth Beard stated that she had talked to Linda Hogan and they had arranged an Oct. 31 deadline for the removal of the jewelry materials. However, Ida will contact Linda (**Action Item**) and work something out to ensure that Linda's materials are in order to accommodate the sale.

Junior Warden's Building Report – Ruth reported that since there are not very many master keys floating around any more, the front door code is being given out more liberally, and so it will be changed quarterly. The building committee, consisting of Ruth, Ann, Laura, and Sarah Blair, has met twice and

are working on a sexton job description. Ruth has shown the draft of this to George Matkowski, who had the job for decades, and he said he was responsible for everything on the list, but he worked 20 hours a week. Gloria is only being paid for 12 hours a week. So Ruth will forward a copy of the list of duties to the vestry and we can decide if we want to cut the expectations or increase the hours. **(Action Item)** The committee is also addressing the extensive restoration needs as identified in the report of structural engineer. The committee intends to prioritize these needs to forward to the discernment committee as a new rector should know a capital campaign is in our future. **(Action Item)** A final item concerns the two old refrigerators in the basement. Ruth has learned that Green Mountain Power will pick up old working refrigerators for free and pay a \$50 rebate. Paul moved to allow Ruth to remove the refrigerators and to talk to Geoff Beyer, the coordinator of Volunteers for Peace, to discuss the need for a new energy-efficient refrigerator for next year's program. Diane seconded. Motion passed. Ruth will take charge of getting the old refrigerators out of the basement. **(Action Item)**

Appointment of Stewardship Committee – Paul informed the vestry that Fred Cook has agreed to be part of the Stewardship Committee. The collective thought was that Angela Simpson had said she would serve on the committee as well. Ruth Beard and Ann Grady volunteered to round out the group. So the Stewardship Committee will consist of Fred, Ruth, Ann, and Angela, unless Angela has changed her mind.

Parish List Update Committee – The committee to update the parish list will consist of Paul, Ruth, Ann, Laura, and Ed and will meet on Thursday, Sept. 30 at noon to begin the work. **(Action Item)**

Closing Prayer – Led by Sr. Laurian

The next meeting will be October 11, 2010.

Resolutions (see details in body of minutes):

To accept the 08/09/10 minutes.

To contribute \$1500 for 2010 to the VIA.

To accept the policy on the removal and the distribution of the books in the auditorium.

To authorize the withdrawal of up to \$15,000 from the diocesan unit trust for anticipated building repairs.

To establish two dedicated pass-through accounts for the book mailing costs, one for the domestic postage and one for the overseas postage, and to apply for a grant from the diocese to pay for part of the overseas postage.

To allow Ruth to remove the old refrigerators in the basement and to talk to Geoff Beyer about the need for a new refrigerator for next summer.