

Vestry Meeting Minutes

11/2/09

Attendance:

Voting – Ruth Beard, Sarah Blair, David Blythe (Senior Warden), Laura Buel (Junior Warden), Diane Holland, Ed Skea

Non-Voting – Dave Simpson (Secretary), Susan Reid, Sharon Wilson, Sarah Baker (Treasurer) Maggie Thompson

Opening Prayer: Led by Dave S

General Business:

Vermont Interfaith Action - Sharon and Susan offered that the VIA could be a resource for the Vestry and congregation as we move into the Interim and Permanent Rector phases of the transition. Remembering to the Vestry the recent listening campaign, as well as their model for community organizing, they indicated that they would be able to reach out and interact with the congregation as we move into the discernment process. The Vestry is very grateful for this offer and support, and agreed that once we have an Interim Pastor and are moving into the discernment phase with the entire congregation

Full Ladle Soup Kitchen – Sharon indicated that this time of transition might be a good time to clarify the finances relating to the Soup Kitchen, as things have been somewhat blurry in the recent past. There are routine and non-routine expenses that come up, such as coffee, dishware, etc. that are often purchased by individual members, who are not necessarily reimbursed unless they ask. There is currently a separate checking account that is fed by donations, but this is not necessarily sufficient to meet expenses. There followed some discussion about how we can support this mission that all agreed is integral to Christ Church's ministry identity, whether it be requesting/encouraging directed donations similar to what we do with the discretionary fund, the pros and cons of bringing the ministry into the budget. No specific action was taken, but it was agreed that this was an important issue to consider.

Professional Fundraising - Not recommending any specific action, David B shared that Mary Mansfield had some experience with using a professional fundraising organization during St. Johns in the Mountains' recent capital campaign. This was simply to put in on the radar.

Rectory – The group went through the 10 things that we are supposed to have in place prior to submitting a proposal to the Standing Committee of the Diocese to sell the property. Some items it was agreed that we would send the information we have, and some items were clarified among the group. One thing that was pointed out was that we need to hold a Parish Meeting, at which the Secretary of the Vestry must certify that a vote was cast to sell the place, and that a minimum amount to be received from the sale is established and agreed upon. A date of 9/15 was agreed upon and Diane will (**ACTION ITEM!**) put the announcement into the bulletin. Another item of note is that we need to have an independent appraisal done of the property. David B agreed to call (**ACTION ITEM!**) an appraiser he knows (Ritche?) to get an estimate of the cost of an appraisal.

Financial:

P&L Statement - Sarah distributed the YTD P&L statement. One disturbing number was that pledges are down for the year, in roughly equivalent amount to what we have saved from not paying David Hall.

Supply - When David Hall was out last year for surgery, there was an unwritten agreement with Sr. Laurian that she would be paid above the typical amount for the 4 weeks she supplied, because she had to oversee several pastoral emergencies, including a funeral. David indicated that this overage would be paid somehow by his insurance, but the issue was never clearly resolved, and it is our understanding that Sr. Laurian has not been paid for any of the services she performed. It was therefore resolved that Sarah would (**ACTION ITEM!, see Resolutions**) immediately pay Sr. Laurian for that time, and that she would contact David Hall about the overage amount to see if it was still possible to obtain that.

Assessment – It was suggested that we might try to take smaller bites out of the assessment, sending money as it is available, rather than either paying in full or paying nothing. It was agreed that we would try to take this approach in the future.

Parochial Report – Sarah distributed copies of the parochial report, which has not been sent to the Diocese yet. There was some concern that some of the numbers are incorrect, and at least one error was found. It was agreed that Vestry members would (**ACTION ITEM!**) take copies of the report home to digest, and bring any suggestions/corrections they have to the next meeting. Sarah also agreed to contact (**ACTION ITEM!**) Mary Mansfield, who agreed to look at our report with her “rector eyes” to offer feedback.

Executive Session:

The group resolved to enter executive session. All visitors were excused.

It was agreed after discussion that Sarah Blair would (**ACTION ITEM!**) contact Alyssa in the office to discuss what her impression of her responsibilities there are.

The group resolved to exit executive session.

Resolutions:

A motion was proposed and adopted to accept the minutes from the 10/18 meeting.

A motion was proposed and adopted that the treasurer will immediately pay Sr. Laurian \$500 for the 4 weeks of supply provided while David Hall was out for surgery.

Next Meeting Monday 11/16 at 7:00