

Christ Church Vestry Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2011

**Attendance:**

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

**General Business:**

1. The meeting came to order at 7:10 pm at the offices of the Vermont Medical Society.
2. The minutes from April 18 were approved with minor corrections.
3. Updates on April 18 Actions

PIP: Paul is waiting to hear from Geoff Beyer about Partners in Peace (PIP) efforts to find a new home. Paul's communication to Geoff was clear that if PIP cannot find a new home, Christ Church would be willing to discuss continued residence at Christ Church, but Geoff's commitment is he's looking for a new place.

Church Survey: Paul is still looking for the church's site survey. Ruth will check with the city to see if they have a copy.

Chronicle: Articles are due to Dick by May 24; Paul will confirm with Dick that Dick will be able to do the Chronicle. Diane will publish if Dick can't. Maggie already submitted an article. Paul will provide a letter from the senior warden. Bob will submit a long article on the MDC process. Paul will ask Sara Baker to write an item about project integrity. Ann will provide an article to address questions that have come to her around the search process.

4. Interim Pastor's Report

Rev. Ann Grady is away so she provided a written Interim Pastor's report. The vestry went into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Upon returning to regular session, discussion returned to other items in Rev. Ann's report.

Of note were Ann's questions about the use of the Christ Church organ. Occasionally people who are not directly involved in the Christ Church music program ask to use our wonderful organ. While we are an open parish and we welcome the community to use our space, we also must ensure the organ is used responsibly. The vestry discussed whether we should require supervision when new people are using the organ. The motion was made and seconded to require people seeking use of the organ to get permission from Rev. Ann, Brian Webb, or Ruth Beard, and at the discretion of Ann,

Brian, or Ruth supervision may be required, at least for the first use. The motion passed unanimously.

Rev. Ann described highlights of upcoming Sunday services. The liturgy on May 29 will be related to the environment. On June 12 the Rev. Dewitt Mallary will be celebrant, and the coffee hour that day will celebrate Rev. Mallary's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

#### 5. Review and Approval of Christ Church Profile

Maggie reported that suggestions from the May 5 meeting with the Bishop and others from the Diocese were incorporated into the final profile. Bob pointed out the box on page four, which highlights the part-time status (75 percent) of the position. After some discussion about changes, the group acknowledged we were going beyond the input from May 5. Sharon noted the profile was really well written and complimented the MDC on the professionalism of the document. Upon motion made and seconded, the vestry unanimously approved the Parish Profile.

#### 6. Finance Committee Report

Ed called attention to the fact we are \$7000 behind pledges compared to this time last year. If at the end of May the church is still this far behind we'll need to take action. Perhaps a pledge drive? A letter to parishioners? Ed doesn't know why pledges are behind last year. Josh noted the budget of \$145,000 and asked how much was pledged for 2011. Ed said as of January 22 pledges were \$104,000. Josh asked whether we're on track for pledges coming in. Ed doesn't know. Ed noted the checking account has under \$4000 in it. Paul suggested we ask Brian Loftus to attend the next meeting of the vestry. (ACTION) Bob Uerz offered to work on a letter that may align in timing with news around responses to our profile. (ACTION)

#### 7. Buildings Committee Report

Ruth requested changes to the way we document payment for use of the building. Currently, it's difficult to track whether people and groups actually pay for use of the building. For example, there was a recent aggregate note of \$220 total for building use on the counting sheet, but Ruth is not able to tell where the money came from. There was a lot of discussion about how to improve the process around documenting payments for use of building. Ed offered to work on changing procedures around recording building use. (ACTION) The group reviewed the facilities usage contract and suggested several edits to the document. There was discussion about using 25 percent of building use fees to reimburse the person who manages building use. We decided to defer action to a future meeting.

Ruth reported there will be a dumpster at church on Friday for cleaning the undercroft. Ruth reported bell tower repairs are slightly behind because of rain.

## 8. Report on Communication Efforts

There are three streams of communication: the Chronicle that Dick Herrmann produces, the church blog that Dick Mansfield maintains, and newspaper notices. The upcoming chronicle discussion occurred earlier as a report on action items. Paul will stay in touch with Dick Mansfield on the blog.

## 9. Diocesan Topics

New Mission Districts – Ruth and Maggie have a meeting June 4. The group had no input on the proposed districts.

Diocesan Capital Campaign proposal – The diocese conducted a feasibility study, and the results suggest now is not a good time for a capital campaign. The goal of the proposed two-part campaign would be \$11 million. Bob disclosed he has worked with Christine Graham on a different campaign; if we get to a vote on this issue Bob would abstain. Bob noted his personal view that Christine is one of the best capital campaign managers in the state. Steve pointed out that page 20 of the report notes there is “not enough enthusiasm.” He also noted that nowhere in the five goals is there mention of recruiting younger members. The report’s chief recommendation is when the diocese does go forward, it should raise money for churches locally in partnership with the diocese. Ruth wonders whether local parishes will go along with that recommendation; many are not comfortable with the diocese. Bob thinks that sentiment may be changing. Bishop Ely is building relationships and if the Diocese engages and collaborates with locals a partnership campaign could work.

## 10. New Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 20. Paul will be away that week. We decided to move the meeting to June 13. There may not be a Finance report for that meeting.

## 11. Other Business

Josh thought the sermon last week was excellent. He likes the idea of having a wake for the church as it used to be. That would free us up to move forward, letting go of the past.

Transition next steps: **Bob reported he, Paul, and Maggie will be scheduling a transition conference call. (ACTION)** The next step is to draft interview questions.

Respectfully submitted

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Sharon Winn Fannon, Secretary