

Vestry Minutes
Christ Episcopal Church
Montpelier, Vermont
September 17, 2018

Members present: Bruce Story, Senior Warden, Chair; David Blythe, Shawn Bryan, Joan Murray and Liz Slayton

Others present: The Rev. Paul Habersang, Priest-in-Partnership; John Jaworski, Treasurer; Virginia Catone, Vestry Secretary; Lynnette Combs, Organist and Choirmaster; Helen Bryan, Chair, Capital Campaign Committee; and Sharon Winn, Capital Campaign Manager.

After Bruce called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., Paul read a Corinthians passage about love.

1. Music ministry: After mentioning the church's many instruments and the expectation that in the not-too-distant future the organ will require some expensive maintenance, Organist and Choirmaster Lynnette Combs talked about modest plans to engage the young children in the parish in singing. She also described the music for the church's special celebrations held on June 2 (150th anniversary) and September 9 ("homecoming" event), the Bach marathon, and the two concert series for the public during Advent and in April.

Lynette told the Vestry of two concerns which she hopes can be addressed in the near future: (a) there is insufficient money in the music budget to pay outside musicians, and (b) the music program has very little presence on the church's web site. Lacking the skills herself, she hopes someone in the congregation might help her improve the latter.

2. Capital campaign update: Sharon Winn gave a brief report on the September 9 Homecoming celebration and on the status of the every member canvass. Although that campaign has ended, with pledges totaling \$560,000, there still are a few members to ask and to revisit. The remaining stage of the capital campaign is to solicit donations from the outer community for which there is a newly formed community group comprised of about ten to twelve members of the congregation whom she named.

3. Consent agenda: David moved approval of the September consent agenda, consisting of the minutes of the August 20 meeting, the Priest-in-Partnership report for August-September, and the August financial statement. Shawn seconded the motion, which carried.

4. Housing Committee update: Shawn reported that the City of Montpelier is in the process of becoming developer of the parking garage that will be constructed behind Christ Church, as a result of the State's approval of the city's Tax Incremental

Financing (TIF) application. To make the project TIF-eligible, the size of the garage had to be increased to include spaces for the public, so that it now will accommodate 350 vehicles rather than the 280 originally envisioned by the Bashara family as part of their plan to erect a Hampton Inn complex behind their Capitol Plaza hotel.

Unfortunately for Christ Church, the increased size means loss of the 10-foot setback expected between the church structure and the parking garage. There will be virtually no space between them. Shawn, Steve Dale and Eileen Peltier of Downstreet Housing and Community Development will meet later this week with the City Manager and Assistant Manager to see whether there is any possibility of changing the configuration of the parking structure.

Bruce, speaking on behalf of the Vestry, expressed great appreciation for all Shawn's and Steve's work relating to this subject.

5. Finance Committee update: Distributed for information prior to the meeting were several printouts containing data for the prior nine years on income, plate, pledge and supplemental income as well as rental income of the parish house space; clergy, lay and administrative expenses including heating and electricity; and a breakdown of eleven categories of building expenses by sanctuary and parish house. Paul with the assistance of Helen Bryan compiled this information from the parochial reports required annually for the Diocese and the national church. Among the points Paul made was that although income from rental of parish house space has increased significantly over the past decade, the operating costs associated with that usage have also gone up substantially.

6. Unit Trust - Altar Guild action: At the behest of Treasurer John on behalf of the Finance Committee, the Vestry adopted a motion from David, seconded by Liz, to distribute 25% of the Taplin Fund Unit Trust in the Christ Church Unit Trust Fund to the Altar Guild Unit Trust.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Virginia F. Catone
Secretary of the Vestry