



Minutes of St. Christopher's Vestry Meeting October 17, 2011

In Attendance: Allison Jensen, Bruce Warkentien, Julie Bayer, Carol Duff, Jim Erickson, Jeff Jensen, Tom Maier, Ann Olson, Mary Pendergrass, Julie Remington, Jim Richards, Robert Williams, Fr. John Dwyer, Laurie Toensing.

Not in Attendance: Rev. Wanda Copeland, Amy Anderson, Jennifer Wright.
Fr. John opened the meeting with worship.

Additions to Agenda/Approval of September Minutes

All

Addition: Motion to approve Xcel Energy contract.

No changes to the September minutes, motion to approve made by Jim R., seconded by Julie R., motion approved by the Vestry.

Pulse of the Parish: Allison Jensen volunteered to give the pulse of the parish next Sunday.

Financial Report

Bruce

Review September Financial Report

- Bruce touched on some of the highlights, including: September actual in the red, but YTD still in the black; very little movement in Dedicated accounts; item #998/Donor Restricted Pass Through amount of \$5,282.89 (moving expenses) will be replenished; receipt for \$1,000 received for Columbarium account; pledges are down so far; fundraising events income has not been listed yet.

Phyllis Specker Funds

- Will be withdrawn from North Star Bank as they only insure for up to \$250,000, we would be investing \$200,000. Discussion followed regarding reinvesting options; Money Market? CD?

Closing Separate Checking Accounts

- Following the directive of the ECM, we need to close 5 separate checking accounts (Over 55 Club, Marching Society, Altar Guild, Women's Bridge, and St. Anne's Guild) and move funds into General Fund/Donor Restricted. No checks will be written on any of these dedicated accounts without their knowledge. Motion to close above mentioned checking accounts and have them rolled into the church finances, to be accounted for as separate dedicated accounts, following the directive of the ECM was made by Julie B., seconded by Jim E. Motion approved by the Vestry.

Courtyard drain cleaning expense (\$1,000-\$1,100)

- The drain was found to be completely plugged with sand. Cleaning will be taken care of this week.

Old Business

Renewal Committee (Strengthen, Enhance & Renew)

Allison

- Committee met October 11. Discussed having an architect work up some plans for needed building improvements, but was deemed too expensive at this time.
- Fr. John suggested bringing some fresh energy into our sanctuary by removing/moving back the choir loft overhang at the entrance. Ella Snyder is going to get an estimate to have that work done.
- Carpets in the building are 20 years old. Don Shiek and Tom Hove are looking into estimates for carpet renewal/replacement.
- Larry Jones will be getting an estimate to have the office door and the north and south entrances updated with power assist doors. It was suggested that a ramp is needed at the office door steps.



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- Awaiting an estimate from NEI to update lighting on the outside (washing the steeple and certain sections of the building with light) and inside (lights on a timer to shine out of stained glass windows in choir loft, chapel, and south/Hwy 36 side) of the building.

Garden Update

Allison & Julie

- Continue to deliver fresh produce to the food shelf.
- Will hold a de-briefing meeting on Thursday, October 20th at 7 pm.

Vestry & Wardens Nomination Process

Bruce

- Nominations will be made for Wardens and 3 new Vestry members. The vestry nomination bucket should be put out in the Narthex ASAP.
- The Wardens and the Vestry members whose terms will be up this year (Amy A., Julie B., Jim R., and Carol D.) will meet briefly with Fr. John.

Sound System

Fr. John & Bruce

- Two unacceptable bids have been received (\$14,000 and \$16,000). Jeff Jensen volunteered to be the Vestry liaison with future estimate bidders to make sure our specific needs (ear monitors, microphones, speakers, sound board, etc.) are met.

Building & Grounds Oversight by Vestry

Fr. John

- Vestry oversight is needed to make sure proper channels are being followed and projects are moving along in a timely manner. Two people are needed now, three after January, to share responsibilities. Mary P. and Jeff J. volunteered for now through the end of the year, will re-evaluate after new Vestry terms start.

Xcel Energy

Bruce

- The interior lighting contract and loan agreement were received today. A document is needed stating the Vestry approved this lighting project for the grant to go ahead. (Fr. John and the Wardens gave the green light earlier.) The energy proposal lists total cost of \$22,585 with a \$9,726 rebate and a CEE non-profit grant of \$3,215 to be applied for. The monthly loan payment will be \$275.00 over 3 years with 0% interest.
- A motion to approve the Xcel energy proposal to upgrade interior lighting was made by Jim R., seconded by Mary P. Motion approved by the Vestry.

New Business

Courtyard Restructuring

Julie B.

- Julie will submit the application for a grant to get the work started after the drain pipes are cleaned of sand. It was suggested that Vestry oversight team look into who should be doing the work.

Vestry Motion to add the Rector as signatory to bank accounts was made by Jim R., seconded by Carol D. The motion was approved by the Vestry.

Vestry Committee Reports

Worship & Liturgy is meeting tomorrow, Oct. 18th.

Jennifer W. & Mary P.

Evangelism – No report.

Amy A. & Carol D.

Faith Formation

Julie B., & Jim E.

- The hayride was a big success.
- Sunday school still needs teacher & volunteer help.
- Amanda (nursery attendant) will be presented to the congregation.
- Over 55 Club had their first get together.
- Safe Church Training will be held at St. C's on October 30, Noon -3pm.



Outreach & Justice

Robert W. & Julie R.

- Met on September 22nd, went over their budget & talked with Fr. John about their goals.
- Discussed scheduling a Loaves & Fishes fundraiser.
- First Nations served 80 meals last night. They need additional volunteers from our congregation to work on days not scheduled as St. Christopher's days.
- Jim R. invited all to attend the upcoming Habitat for Humanities dedication.

Stewardship

Tom M., Jim R., & Fr. John

- 80-85% of pledges are in, all Vestry pledges are in, deadline for pledges is next Sunday.

Facilities

Bruce, Allison & Fr. John

- (See previous discussion – Building & Grounds Oversight by Vestry.)

Rector and Wardens Comments

Rector's Comments

Fr. John

- Regarding building renewal – has read everything written in the last 10 years regarding renewal and is concerned primarily with deferred maintenance issues. Would like to see the Renewal Committee reframe it's mission to concentrate on upgrade issues.
- Would like those Vestry members who are rotating out to share their thoughts on what they would like to have known about the Vestry before agreeing to be on it.
- Asked the Vestry members take turns volunteering as the "Vestry on Duty" person on Sunday mornings. This would be a good way to remind the parish that they have an open line of communication with the Vestry.
- A lot of projects are being bid out right now and there may be parishioners who will be unhappy about some of the changes. Think about how to handle questions and concerns from them and consider using "Triangulation" to help diffuse tough situations.

Warden's Comments – Bruce:

- Noted that we had a visitor on Sunday morning who found us via Facebook (Social Justice & Outreach).
- Offered congratulations to Ryan Slechta, this year's North Suburban Kiwanis Club Youth Honoree.

Allison:

- Noted that although a web and Facebook presence are good for St Christopher's, word of mouth is just as important, Evangelism belongs to all of us.

A final note – the Vestry decided to offer a Kentucky Derby Party for the Silent Auction.

Bearer Shout-Outs

All

- Julie Bayer for her work on courtyard restructuring.
- Tree crews, (Don Shiek, Ray Gerst, Dave Ingram, John Brown, Chris Mayr) for ongoing work.
- Quilters and Tom Hove for post-treasure sale clean up.
- Jean Crow and Cheryl Warkentien for hard work organizing the treasure sale.

After member's concerns and feedback, the meeting was adjourned at 9pm with the Lord's Prayer.

The next Vestry meeting is on Nov. 21, 2011 6:45pm worship 7:00pm meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Toensing, Clerk of the Vestry