

Vestry Meeting Minutes February 14, 2015

In Attendance: Mary Friend, Darlene Cross, Barb Swanson, Elaine Norling, Kathy Ackerman, Jill Eischens, Fr. John Dwyer, Jean Crow, Mary Pendergrass, Elizabeth Grayden, Harold Danley, Ann DePaolis-Jones

Not in Attendance: Chris Lacher

Volunteer for Pulse of the Parish : 8:00 Mary Pendergrass, 10:30 Harold Danley

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Kathy to approve the December vestry minutes with a second by Jill. A motion was made by Harold to approve the January vestry minutes with a second by Elaine. Both motions were approved by the vestry

Additions to Agenda: None

Financials: Fr. John explained financial procedures for new vestry members. Net assets were \$29,554 in the black for January. This is largely due to pre-paid pledges deposited and increased pledges or one time gifts from the request at the annual meeting. No decisions will be made regarding the hiring of a cleaning service until April.

Ongoing Business:

Snow Removal: If there is two inches or more of snow, the plow service will come. There is no one identified to shovel the sidewalks and steps. It would add \$60 to the contract each time if the service also does the shoveling. We have been relying on Fr. John and random volunteers to do the shoveling and we have asked for more volunteers.

Lawn Care: Mike Ammermann, who did the mowing last Fall, has agreed to continue in the Spring. There are concerns about the ability of the riding lawn mower to handle the rugged grounds. We have had to repair the mower several times because of the uneven ground. Harold offered to mow behind the church and around the gardens with hand mower because this is too difficult with the riding mower. The vestry discussed ideas for the area around the giving gardens.

Cleaning: Ella Snyder and Elaine Norling are organizing the cleaning process and volunteers. Ella will email the volunteers on the Saturday before the week assigned to remind them. Directions for cleaning and duty check-off sheets are located in the mailboxes outside the office.

New Business:

Mission Opportunities Funding Requests: There is \$10,000 in the Mission Opportunities fund. Parishioners can request funds in writing. The finance committee reviews these requests and makes a recommendation to the vestry that makes the final decision whether or not to approve.

Habitat for Humanity: A written request for \$2500 was received to work with St. Timothy's on a Habitat house this year. Finance committee reviewed the request and recommended \$500 for participating in Habitat. The request was discussed and it was decided that no other fundraising or further solicitation for gifts for Habitat will be allowed at St. Christopher's this year. Calls can be made to individual members

as long as it is done outside of church time. Individuals can then write checks directly to Habitat. Finance recommended that a letter be sent to the requester so the decision is clear. There was concern expressed by Harold about the approved amount of funding for this long standing commitment. It was noted that \$2500 would fund community dinner for 10 months, so the request seemed disproportionate for one event. Finance committee is trying to be a good steward of the money. Other concerns noted; It was implied that last year was the final year we would participate in Habitat. Last year, the commitment was made to Habitat without vestry approval. Also, it was understood that St. Timothy's would provide the funding this year. It was suggested that we can participate with Habitat through ECMN with less expense. Kathy made a motion that we accept the finance committee's recommendation of approving \$500 for Habitat for Humanity with the provision that a letter be sent to the requester outlining the concerns. Darlene seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the vestry with one member, Harold, opposing.

Lenten Project: There was a request for \$110 for materials for fleece blankets for the Lenten program. The finished blankets will go to Keystone Community Services. A motion was made by Barb to approve \$110 for fleece blankets with a second by Harold. Vestry unanimously approved.

ERD Fund Raiser: Fr. John shared that this is the 75th anniversary of Episcopal Relief and Development. (ERD) and the House of Deputies has a goal of raising \$75,000 this year for ERD. Since 3 of the Minnesota deputies are from St. Christopher's (1/3 of MN deputies), there was a request for us to host a fundraiser for ERD. 7 other parishes would be involved. Finance recommends we do the fundraiser for the National Church, though the type of fundraiser is yet to be determined. There was a discussion about our guidelines for raising money, and whether this falls within the guidelines. We would be hosting, but the fundraiser would be for a national effort. There was also a discussion about the costs of hosting a fundraiser and whether that would come from Fr. John's discretionary fund or from the proceeds of the event. Kathy made a motion that we approve the concept of the ERD fundraising event, but would like more details before final approval. Harold seconded the motion and the motion was approved by the vestry.

Parochial Report: The Parochial Report was shared with vestry. Finance team reviewed and voted to approve. Vestry reviewed and discussed the report. Darlene made a motion to approve the Parochial Report, with a second by Elaine. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Lenten Soup Program: We will have soup luncheons with a Lenten program on Sundays in March. The soup sign up is available and the vestry is encouraged to participate.

Shout Outs:

Karla Cole, Marion Hunner, Suzanne Hitchcock, Karen Hanna, parents and kids for dramatic sermon. Cleaning volunteers, and those who facilitated the process.
Tom Hove for his years of service. (Darlene will write Tom a note of thanks from the vestry.)

Rector and Warden Remarks

Member Comments and Concerns

Meeting was adjourned and followed by Holy Eucharist

Submitted by Ann DePaolis-Jones