

Vestry Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2016

In Attendance: Darlene Cross, Becky Lucas, Fr. John Dwyer, Mary Pendergrass, Elizabeth Grayden, Chris Lacher, Jeff Jensen, Mike Sirany, Ann DePaolis-Jones

Not in Attendance: Kathy Ackerman, Barb Swanson, Jan Fillmore, Harold Danley

Reading and Discussion: First Impressions, by Kevin Minch, part of the Vestry Papers issue on Sharing Our Stories

Volunteer for Pulse of the Parish: Becky Lucas

Approval of May 23 Minutes: Darlene moved we approve the minutes as written. Chris seconded the motion and the May minutes were approved.

Additions to the Agenda: None

Financial Report: Father John reported that at 41.6% of the year, we are at 44.69 % of revenue. We are 3% ahead because people caught up on their pledges and the quarterly draw from the PIF came in. Expenses were kept at 40.46% of the budget. Overall, we are \$5,700 in the black for month and \$18,000 in the black for the year. During the finance team review, Ruth shared that Vanco, who manages our automatic pledge withdrawals, changed their fee structure. Their fees are going up from 25 cents per transaction to .5% of the total transaction (Approx. \$10 more per month). It was noted that Vanco is still substantially less than other companies.

Ongoing Business:

Funeral Luncheon: There will be a gathering in the Parish Hall this Sunday, June 26 to present the researched options for funeral luncheons to the parish and to ask for input. An insert went out in the bulletin last Sunday to allow people who can't be at the gathering to provide their feedback. There was a discussion about whether to have the gathering with everyone at coffee hour, or to move to another space. It was decided to have it in the Parish Hall, and to have a paper flip chart to record people's comments. It will be facilitated by Jeff, and Fr. John will record responses and ideas. Darlene will give input based on her experience. We need to let parish know the history, what the problem is and what we are proposing.

LED bulb fundraiser: A proposal for a fundraiser to purchase LED bulbs for the parish was approved by the finance team. The fundraiser will benefit the green team and further our efforts to be a green congregation. "Adopt an LED lightbulb", (or area of the parish) would be held in July and August with installation of the bulbs in September. Becky suggested donating the used bulbs that we remove that still have life in them. Fr. John moved that the proposal for an LED bulb fundraiser be accepted and Mary seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Goals and Dreams Updates: Becky reported for the welcome team that they have heard from one person willing to drive others to church, and they have sent one hand written welcome card to a potential newcomer. Mike reported for communications that Allison is taking a leadership role with the communication team and has been offering suggestions and providing resources. Jeff reported that for evangelism, a small group of people met to discuss ideas for attracting outsiders

to St. Christopher's. Fr. John shared that he has a list of potential housing developers he can contact to inquire if there's any interest in starting a conversations about a low income housing development on site that would help sustain us financially.

July 10 Bishop's Visit: The Bishop will be here on July 10th, but can't stay long after the service. There will be a reception for John and Ben following the service and Darlene and Barb are working on decorations and refreshments. They will consult with Fr. John and Darlene will email the vestry to let them know where they can help with the event.

Carpet Cleaning: The carpet cleaning has been booked and will take place on July 6th, in time for the Bishop's visit. The youth and choir rooms were not part of the original bid, so if not cost prohibitive, we may add it on or will wait till next year.

Move to Amend: Becky gave a review of the presentation by David Cobb from Move to Amend that took place at St. Christopher's on June 16th. Becky is recommending that St. Christopher's become an endorsing organization of Move to Amend. Move to Amend is striving to end corporate constitutional rights and to make clear that money is not free speech. The process would be for the vestry to endorse Move to Amend and then educate the parish. A sub group of the vestry will create a statement identifying the reason behind our endorsement and asking the parish members to sign, indicating their support. Mary made a motion that we become an endorsing body of the Move to Amend and Mike seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Becky and Mike will create a statement to share with the parish and will bring it back to the vestry for review.

Columbarium Update: The stones have been removed to have the writing highlighted. The project will be done in 2-3 weeks.

New Business:

Team Budget Requests: Teams need to request their budgets for next year so forms will be sent to team leaders soon. The proposed budget for next year comes to the vestry in September. There was a discussion about the stewardship drive and Fr. John suggested that all vestry and finance team members be a part of the stewardship team this year.

Fundraising Requests: Cynthia Verhey and Julie Shiek want to coordinate the silent auction in November with proceeds going to Mission Opportunities. They are hoping to raise \$5000 with this fundraiser which was approved by the finance team. Someone else will need to organize the dinner if we are to have one. Fr. John moved we accept the request for this fundraising event and Mary seconded the motion. After a discussion and vote, the motion was approved

Mission Opportunity Grant Requests: We are down to \$52 in the in-house feeding ministries account. Finance and vestry requested a grant of \$2500 from Mission Opportunities to fund the Community Dinners through the end of the year. Mary moved we accept the grant request and Darlene seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

There was also a grant request for \$1276 for Habitat for Humanity. There was a fundraiser in September for Habitat and the hope was to raise the \$2500 needed. The fundraiser made only

half of the \$2500 needed to participate in the build. Ebie Richards is requesting \$1276 for the remainder of the costs of participating in Habitat. Fr. John moved that we approve the Mission Opportunities grant of \$1276 to be used for the Habitat build this year and Jeff seconded the motion. Discussion included concerns about the cost of participating and whether we could do a similar mission with other episcopal churches. The motion was approved and Fr. John will draft a letter to send along with the approval stating the concerns.

August Vestry Meeting: The August meeting typically includes a pot luck picnic at the senior warden's home. Dates were discussed because of many being out of town. It was decided to have the August vestry meeting/picnic on Wednesday, August 24th. Location to be determined.

Shoutouts:

All those who participated in Hamline and highway access cleanup

All those who planned and attended the "Finding Nemo" and "Hunger Games" movie nights

Rector and Warden Comments

Member Comments and Concerns

Compline

Submitted by Ann DePaolis-Jones