

Vestry Minutes—Church of Our Redeemer

Wednesday, May 20, 2009 – 7:30 pm

Handley Library, Church of Our Redeemer

Attendance: George Murnaghan (Jr. Warden), Janet Kern (Clerk), Jim Neumann (Assistant Treasurer), The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons, Randy Bowlby, Erica Brotschi, Jed Geyerhahn, Sandra Keshishian, Jack Manes

Absent: Connie Parrish (Sr. Warden), Lindsay Koso, Katherine Mirani, Peter Lund, Dinesh Dulipsingh (Treasurer)

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 by George Murnaghan; Sabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A MOTION was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the Vestry meeting May 6, 2009. There were no changes or amendments. The minutes were approved.

Housing Allowance: A MOTION was made and seconded which read: “Resolved, that \$33,000 of the total cash compensation paid to the Rev. Elisabeth S. Fitzgibbons for the calendar year of 2009 is hereby designated as a housing allowance. This housing allowance remains in effect until superseded by a subsequent resolution of the vestry.” The motion was approved unanimously.

Welcoming & Affirming Actions

There is a basket of pins with a Rainbow flag that is now available in the side hall outside the sanctuary. Sabeth indicated that she and Ted would like to wear them on their vestments as a visible sign that they welcome all to worship with us. While the rainbow is intended to represent welcoming for all people regardless of any specific classification, the rainbow is recognized particularly by the gay/lesbian/bi-sexual/transgendered community to be welcoming. The vestry supported clergy and other individuals wearing the rainbow pins at church. The vestry also began a discussion about whether Redeemer would want to fly a rainbow flag at certain times of the year. No decision was made and it was agreed that the discussion probably needs to be held in the context of a larger, broader parish discussion. We also agreed that we should give our new Priest-in-Charge the opportunity to lead those discussions. Sabeth and Erica agreed to introduce the conversation to the rest of the parish via a Redeeming Features article and that we would also make an announcement about the availability of rainbow pins for all. In addition, Sabeth will ask Ted to include diversity issues in his preaching in June.

Letter

The wardens shared the letter from former rector, The Rev. Tricia de Beer, to Sr. Warden Connie Parrish, copies of which had been sent to the bishops, The Rev. Canon Mally Lloyd, The Rev. Canon Cynthia Hubbard and George Murnaghan, Jr. Warden. The vestry began a conversation about what we might learn from the letter with respect to parish life moving forward.

Vestry Retreat

Because of the late annual meeting this year, we were unable to have a vestry retreat this year. Dates have been put on the calendar for fall (2009 vestry) and winter (for 2010 vestry).

Priest-in-Charge Letter of Agreement (George & Jim Neumann)

The Vestry went into Executive Session in order to discuss the Letter of Agreement for the Priest-in-Charge.

A MOTION was made and seconded regarding the negotiation of a compensation package for Priest-in-Charge candidate the Rev. Katherine Ekrem , consistent with Diocesan Clergy Compensation Guidelines for a parish of our size, as estimated by Ass't Treas. Jim Neumann and reviewed for accuracy by Rev. Cynthia Hubbard. The motion further authorized George Murnaghan, Junior Warden, to negotiate the remaining details of the package. The motion passed unanimously.

The Vestry made the following ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Thanks to Jack Manes and Sandy Keshishian, for sitting in with the Confirmation Class, and to Janet Kern for going on their day retreat this Saturday. The vestry also agreed that Thank You notes were not necessary, since all are vestry members who were present to receive the thanks in person. The Clerk in turn thanked the vestry for its wisdom.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm with a prayer by George Murnaghan.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Kern, Clerk