

Vestry Minutes – Church of Our Redeemer

Wednesday, June 15 – 7:30 p.m.

Handley Library, Church of Our Redeemer

Attendance: The Rev. Kate Ekrem (Priest-in-Charge), the Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons (Assistant Priest), Connie Parrish (Sr. Warden), George Murnaghan (Jr. Warden), Frank Kern (Treasurer), Paula Antonevich (Clerk), Bob Bettacchi, Emily Charlton, Susan Emanuel, Ian Fox, Sandy Keshishian, Peter Lund. Absent: Anna Kern; James Surprenant.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Kate Ekrem and began with prayer offerings through the use of the hand labyrinth.

Resolution to LPC discussion (George):

Based on the good consensus to affirm our intent to renew a lease with the Lexington Playcare Center (LPC) at the June 13 Vestry meeting, George presented a resolution to be adopted by the Vestry (attachment 1).

A MOTION was made and seconded to adopt the resolution. There was discussion to edit the first sentence of the resolution for clarification. The proposed edit reads: Be it resolved: The Vestry intends to continue ~~our relationship~~ **the church's relationship** with Lexington Playcare Center (LPC) as a lessee in the Church's Education Wing and to reestablish a formal lease arrangement with LPC.

The motion to adopt the amended resolution was approved by a vote of eight to one, with no abstention.

Discernment Committee for Priest-In-Charge (Connie):

To follow the proscribed timeline for the Priest-in-Charge discernment process as outlined by diocesan liaison, Phil Whitbeck, Vestry must appoint a discernment committee which is recommended to be 6 – 8 members that will include 2 -3 Vestry members.

There was discussion about how the committee should be composed (volunteer v. selected; good representation of Redeemer community, etc.), general skills that will be needed, including familiarity with and integration of the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan, as well as the time commitment.

It was determined that:

- Vestry will remind Redeemer community about the P-I-C discernment process through *Redeeming Features* and weekly announcements;
- Vestry members should think about potential committee members, gauge their interest, and share names with Connie;
- the Redeemer community will have an opportunity to give input to the discernment committee

Further discussion about the process will be held at the July 14 Vestry meeting.

To ensure the process is sound, Kate expressed her understanding, if deemed necessary by the Vestry, to excuse herself from future discussions about the committee selection and the discernment process.

Task Group Reports:

Leadership Development task group report (Paula, Peter and Sandy): To meet the first goal of the task group - assess current and anticipated human resource needs, both lay and staff, across all programmatic areas and supporting groups - the committee shared the findings of the Ministry Assessment (Excel spreadsheet and preliminary report) previously distributed for review over email.

The task group has asked the Vestry to digest the reports and revisit the documents in the fall to help meet the additional goals of the strategic plan that includes the evaluation of ministries for their criticality to Redeemer's core values and operation as well as the evaluation measures Redeemer might adopt to better recruit, train and support lay leaders.

Strategic Plan task group report (Emily, James and Susan): Nothing to report at this time.

Property/Capital task group report (Bob, Connie, Frank, George and Ian): Members continue to meet organize and assign expenditures to potential projects that are critical to Redeemer's daily operation; projects that are part of regularly scheduled maintenance; and projects to be considered relative to space use decisions related to the strategic plan. Connie met Kate and Sabeth to evaluate current and anticipated worship space requirements and needs.

High chair donation from Wright family (Frank):

John and Lori Wright have offered to donate 2 – 3 high chairs to be placed in the parish hall for use. A MOTION was made and seconded to accept the gift of high chairs. The motion was passes unanimously.

Minutes (for approval) (Paula):

A MOTION was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the Vestry meeting of May 18, 2011, previously distributed for review over email. The motion was approved unanimously.

A MOTION was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Vestry meeting of June 13, 2011, previously distributed for review over email. There was discussion regarding inclusion of background documents as attachments for institutional memory. It was determined that when necessary, documents will be attached in future meeting minutes. The motion was passed with one abstention.

Treasurer's Report (Frank):

To date, 56% of annual pledges have been collected and 46% of anticipated non-pledge contributions. Second quarter pledge reminder statements will be sent in July. Total revenues are \$18.4K ahead of budget. With exception of fuel oil running ahead, there are no expense concerns to report.

A MOTION was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report previously distributed for review over email from the month of May 2011. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vestry Liaison Reports:

Finance (Frank): There was no Finance committee meeting in early June but Frank noted that the Finance Committee provided the amount available for distribution this year to the Endowment Committee and will work with the Endowment committee about the process for soliciting and fulfilling requests.

Worship (Sandy): The committee would like to see weekly announcements shortened and determined that they will remain at the end of the service, prior to closing prayer. There was discussion about removing the American flag and the Episcopal flag from the sanctuary. The Redeemer community will be brought into the discussion about this consideration. Lastly, the committee is investigating the implementation of regularly (monthly) scheduled alternative service.

Assistant Priest Report (Sabeth):

The assistant priest report was previously distributed for review over email and included updates for Christian Formation, leadership development for Christian Formation, and liturgical responsibilities.

Currently there is an existing space shortage for Sunday Christian Formation and affirming our commitment to LPC brings an urgency to addressing the shortage. Sabeth articulated the costs and promises associated with this decision on Christian Formation – particularly for youth - and outlined an opportunity for the Vestry to “think creatively about how we might renovate some existing spaces to create sustainable space solutions for our current shortage.”

Sabeth noted that two of the four goals of the Strategic Plan relate to Christian Formation and requests that Vestry revisit the Ad Hoc Space Usage report from 2009 as well as the more recent proposal to relocate the Atrium classroom to the LPC classrooms (with flexible furniture options) to free up two classrooms on the second floor.

It was determined that Vestry will use Sabeth's report to continue the discussion about the space use shortage and possible short-term and long-term solutions.

Important Dates:

Next Vestry Meeting: July 14*

Executive Meeting: July 11

Bishop's Visit: June 19, Vestry lunch with bishop to follow service & adult forum.

*Originally scheduled for July 13 but conflicts with summer home communion. New date subsequently selected through online poll.

Acknowledgements:

Lisa Thistle for her diligent attention to the counter sheets and administrative support; Chris Needham for leadership of youth group

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Antonevich, Clerk

[Attachment 1]

Vestry Resolution regarding LPC

Whereas: Lexington Playcare Center (LPC) has been renting space from the Church of Our Redeemer and operating in the Church's Education Wing since 1984.

Whereas: There has not been a formal lease arrangement between the Church and LPC since September 2004, when negotiations on a new lease broke down due to an inability to arrive at mutually agreeable language governing responsibility for lead paint on the exterior of our building.

Whereas: The vestry agreed in a special meeting on 6/13/11 that a continuing relationship with LPC is desirable.

Be it Resolved: The Vestry intends to continue ~~our relationship~~ the church's relationship with Lexington Playcare Center (LPC) as a lessee in the Church's Education Wing and to reestablish a formal lease arrangement with LPC.

The term of that lease shall be determined through negotiations with LPC and subject to Vestry approval, and it shall be of a prudent length in keeping with the Church of Our Redeemer's best interests.