

## **Vestry Minutes—Church of Our Redeemer**

Wednesday, July 1, 2009 – 7:30 pm

Handley Library, Church of Our Redeemer

**Attendance:** Connie Parrish (Sr. Warden), George Murnaghan (Jr. Warden), Janet Kern (Clerk), Randy Bowlby, Erica Brotschi, Jed Geyerhahn, Sandra Keshishian, Peter Lund, Katherine Mirani, The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons.

Absent: Dinesh Dulipsingh (Treasurer), Lindsay Koso, Jack Manes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Connie Parrish; Sabeth then opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** A MOTION was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the Vestry meeting June 17, 2009. There was one amendment to list Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons as absent. The motion was approved unanimously with the amendment.

Connie reported that the diocese is contributing \$500 and that there is also an anonymous donation of \$100 to provide a consultant to help build good working relationships with staff, wardens and priest-in-charge. A MOTION was made and seconded to accept these donations and direct the donations to the Vestry fund for the purpose team building sessions with staff, wardens and rector with an outside consultant. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Nursery –Part 2**

Sabeth distributed a summary of feedback she had received from approximately 12 nursery families. The summary reviewed positive and negative feedback and suggestions.

She asked that the vestry:

- agree/affirm the draft vision as something that can be used to continue the work.
- affirm key components of vision
- approve process that consists of:
  - continue forming the committee
  - finalize vision statement
  - develop safe church policy as it pertains to child care by September 1
  - develop staffing plan
  - develop strategy for location
  - determine what the minimal requirements are for being to open and functioning in the fall.

The vestry agreed, affirmed and approved all of the above, with thanks to Sabeth and all the members the current working group.

### **Mission Conversation**

Connie gave some background :

Mission committee has an objective of 100% participation in some way for mission. They encourage individuals to take the lead with specific mission ministries which they then support. Funds for support come from both operating revenues and fundraising. Vestry had to cut the Mission budget from \$20K in 2008 to \$12K in 2009; Mission Committee has said they would like to make up the difference with fundraising and has planned fundraising events for every month of the year to make up the difference.

Because a vestry member is not on the Mission Committee, it is currently operating without the benefit of vestry input to help provide perspective related to other operations and programs in the parish. There is some concern that there might be an imbalance in Mission's parish-wide fundraising plans versus the overall needs of the parish operating budget, in light of a projected \$20K plus budget deficit.

Discussion touched on some of the higher level issues including:

- What role does mission play in the life of the parish?
- How do we want to raise money for the things that we support.
- Do we need a policy about fundraising in general?

Vestry agreed that Priest-in-Charge, Kate Ekrem must be involved as we move forward with more discussion and any policies, etc.

Vestry acknowledged the importance of mission to “the lifeblood of the church” and recognized the strong contribution that Mission activities make to church community. All agreed that there are some things that vestry can do to be helpful immediately:

- Look at calendar proposals for the upcoming year and finalize the calendar.
- Prepare to review and approve an overall fundraising plan this year and every year.
- Negotiate a committee meeting time to enable vestry liaison participation.
- Continue to encourage coordination between Mission (and all committees) and the vestry.

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**Announcements:** El Hogar trip has been cancelled, due to recent coup and instability in Honduras.

#### **Acknowledgements/Thanks from the Vestry**

- Peter Lund for cleaning up the mess around the dumpster. Peter was present at the meeting, and was thanked verbally.

#### **Closing Prayer**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm with a prayer offered by Janet Kern.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Kern, Clerk