

Vestry Minutes—Church of Our Redeemer

Wednesday, October 7, 2009 – 7:30 pm

Handley Library, Church of Our Redeemer

Attendance: The Rev. Kate Ekrem (Priest-in-Charge), Connie Parrish (Sr. Warden), George Murnaghan (Jr. Warden), Jim Neumann (Ass't Treasurer), Dinesh Dulipsingh (Treasurer), Erica Brotschi, Janet Kern (Clerk), The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons, Jed Geyerhahn, Sandra Keshishian, Lindsay Koso, Jack Manes, Katherine Mirani, Emma Staatz (Office Administrator).

Absent: Randy Bowlby, Peter Lund

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Kate Ekrem; We began with prayer using stones placed in a basket (in the absence of our lap labyrinth).

Approval of Minutes:

A MOTION was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the Vestry meeting of September 17, 2009. The motion was approved unanimously with one correction.

Treasurer's Report:

Pledge Offerings and unrestricted offerings are on track; rental income is up; Expenses generally on track, including office/communications. Property Operating is exceeding budget; 13th month update: 25 pledging units for ~\$15,000 ; talked about how to get this message out most effectively to the parish: perhaps make a thermometer, mention that 80% of pledgers have not pledged...

A MOTION was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Budget Process Introduction - Jim Neumann

Jim will be joining us at all budget meetings to help facilitate.

There will be a series of presentations by different budget managers. No decisions will be made at these meetings; our role is to listen and ask clarifying questions so we can get a sense of the budget area needs. The best use of our time is to focus on big picture items (use about \$1000 as a guide to level of questions)

Budget Meetings: Office and Vestry

Office (Emma): Requests reflect a transition to all in-house printing; goal is no professional printing. Another goal is to have program groups pay for their own printing, but that transition will take some time, so budget reflects that. We discussed in detail Office Supplies and how to plan and maintain supply so that they are available for programs when they need them.

Vestry (Connie): Most budget items are under \$1000, so questions should be limited. Determined that we need to include Annual Meeting expenses as part of Vestry budget.

Altar Supplies: Marion Hayes (Chair of Altar Guild) was not able to attend this meeting; altar supplies budget will be incorporated offline after discussions with Marion and Finance Committee.

Vestry Liaison Reports: Stewardship (Connie)

Connie reported that our plans for "cottage meetings" for Stewardship have progressed: we have 5 facilitators; 4 home hosts + church; plan is for 9 meetings between October 20 and November 11. Training for facilitators will be weekend of Oct 17 – 18.

There will be different times for different meetings – Saturdays, Sundays after church, evenings, etc. Hosts and facilitators need to reply about what times would work best for them. We'll also need to make phone calls and invite people. Connie said vestry help is needed with calling/communication in general.

Vestry Liaison Reports: Communications (Janet)

Janet reported that the committee is forming, adding new members; we focused on establishing a process and schedule for the Redeeming Features newsletter initially; we are now planning a Communications Guide to have everyone be able to provide consistent, clear communications from their program area to the wider parish.

Finalize Rental Agreement

MOTION was made and seconded to accept the final Rental agreement; the motion unanimously passed.

Rectory Heating system (Connie)

Communications have been made with Karen Schragle (Property Chair) to investigate various options for energy audits and evaluating options for heating system

Report from Exec meeting with Mission (Kate and Exec)

Members of Mission Committee met with Executive Committee; they talked about goals for connecting different mission activities; is the parish as a whole in tune/aware of what Mission sees as their vision? Conclusion was “probably not”, since we've had many new members since the adoption of the Mission strategy in 2006 and that there has not been regular, broad-based communication to the parish since then about the wider Mission strategy (as opposed to individual mission activities.) We talked about vestry oversight and participation with Mission. There may be further meetings with vestry at a later date.

Personnel Policy

The Personnel Policy had been provided over email for review by vestry. Connie made some suggested edits for clarification purposes. *Note: Connie's suggested edits were further changed after the meeting and vote, with Connie's approval. Executive Committee agreed in 10/13 meeting that vestry re-review and approval is not necessary because Connie was the initiator of the original amendments.*

MOTION to accept with thanks to Personnel Committee as amended; approved unanimously

Worship Committee members: your suggestions? (Kate)

Kate asked for suggestions of parishioners who might feel very strongly about worship; she would like to have a meeting to discuss worship with those who feel most strongly about it, as part of the process of forming a Worship Committee.

Nursery Vision Statement

MOTION that Vestry approve the vision that has been constructed so that the committee can move onto implementation. Unanimously approved.

(see Appendix A for text)

Also: Applications are being accepted for a 3rd nursery caregiver; currently Sabeth has 20 applicants.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Retreat Committee for making the calls to get people to attend, developing and presenting a great program, and providing fun activities.

Closing

Night Prayer in the New Zealand Prayer Book was said to complete our meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Kern, Clerk

Vestry Minutes 10/7/09 Appendices

Appendix A – Nursery Committee Vision Statement:

“At the Church of Our Redeemer, our Nursery is a fundamental part of our vision to be a family-friendly church. It is a significant ministry in the life of our Parish, and is foundational to our desire to welcome and support families with young children. We desire the quality and consistency of our Nursery staff and Nursery space to serve as a point of attraction to the faith community. We recognize the great trust parents must place in our Nursery, and our responsibility to fulfill that trust by operating under the spirit and intent of the Safe Church guidelines.”

Nursery Ad Hoc Team
September 2009