

Vestry Minutes – Church of Our Redeemer

Wednesday, November 16 – 7:30 p.m.

Handley Library, Church of Our Redeemer

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

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.

Music Committee Proposal (Murray):

A proposal to fund the chamber organ repair and restoration as well as supporting documents from Pelland Pipe Organ Co., LLP were previously distributed for review over email. It is estimated to cost \$5500 to repair and restore the chamber organ.

Murray provided brief history of the organ, its current use and limitations, and the need for its repair. The request from the Music Committee to the Vestry, as outlined in the Proposal, is:

1. Approval of endowment balance expenditure of \$460 toward this project.
2. Approval of music fund balance expenditure of \$357 toward this project.
3. Approval of Mary Bailey Memorial funds in the amount of \$1307 toward this project, leaving a balance of \$1308 in this fund for future special music performances, specifically for guest musicians
4. Approval of anonymous Music Fund plate donation expenditure of \$45 toward this project.
5. Approval of transfer of 2011 Music Library account (#7036-07) balance of \$438.65 to the Organ maintenance account (#6435-01)
6. Approval of transfer of the 2011 Musicians/Subs account (#6066-01) balance of \$500 to the Organ maintenance account (#6435-01)
7. Approval of transfer of 2011 Music Supplies/Maintenance account (#6434-01) in the amount of \$661.35 to the Organ maintenance account (#6435-01)
8. Approval of Organ maintenance balance (after transfers in items #4, 5, 6 above) of \$1900 toward this project.
9. Permission for the music committee to raise additional funds in the amount of \$1731 toward this project.

Questions about the authenticity of the organ as a “Bevington” were raised (Pelland understands it to be a Bevington but others present at the meeting remember it identified as not a Bevington several years ago), the status of the Gress Miles (pipe organ) and consideration of its use, repair and upkeep, as well as the need to investigate further the value and use of the chamber organ.

In an effort to balance its support of the Music Committee’s pursuit of the chamber organ’s restoration and repair with the need for more information, it was proposed that Vestry consider approval of the transfer of funds from the operating account to the permanent music fund for later use.

A MOTION was made and seconded to: ask the Music Committee to secure an appraisal (not market assessment) authorize the expenditures for the said appraisal up to \$750 of the organ “known as the Bevington” and to transfer items #6 and #7 from proposal (above) totaling \$1161.35 to the Music Fund. The motion was approved unanimously.

Leadership Development Task Group (Sandy):

The task group recently conducted a poll to assess utilization of the parish membership. The poll was available for three weeks, online and through print. Seventeen responses were received with sixteen responding “utilized at a good level” and one response as “over utilized” and zero responses as “underutilized.” The task group is meeting November 20 to determine next steps for the coming calendar year.

Budget 2012 (Frank & Jim):

The *2012 Budget Working Version for Vestry Consideration* was previously distributed for review over email. Jim presented the first draft of the 2012 budget determined by the results of the November 3 budget meeting and program requests. The preliminary budget for 2012 shows an increase in Unrestricted Offerings, based on the Stewardship Drive five-year plan, but this income will be offset by the reduction in cell tower rental income bringing total projected revenue to \$490.9. This budget also includes a 7.8% increase in expenses for a projected deficit of \$35K. Finance Committee will continue to meet to review requests and Vestry will receive updated budget in December when 2011 income and expenses are nearly final and when the Stewardship Drive is complete.

Endowment Committee (Frank):

There has been ongoing discussion regarding the process in which the Endowment Fund income is distributed. It was determined that Vestry will inform the parish community at Annual Meeting (January 29, 2012) about dissolving the Endowment Committee and restructuring the income distribution process. The proposed changes would align with current processes for the other church Endowment Funds (Pring and Davidson). This suggested change would not alter the process that allows membership to make special expenditure requests to the Vestry throughout the year.

Approval to serve alcohol at Caouette memorial reception (Connie):

A MOTION was made and seconded to approve the serving of wine at the Caouette funeral memorial to be held on November 19. The motion was approved unanimously.

It has been traditional practice for Vestry to approve the serving of alcohol at church and non-church events held on church property. This recent request highlights that there is not a current alcohol policy at Redeemer. Kate is reviewing current practices at other churches for future Vestry consideration.

Minutes (for approval) (Paula):

A MOTION was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the Vestry meeting of October 19, 2011, previously distributed for review over email. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report (Frank):

Revenue is in line with budget expectations. Miscellaneous expenses are higher than budget due to an overrun in the Flower & Garden line item and a numerical error on the check to the Barbara C. Harris camp. The Barbara C. Harris camp will reimburse Redeemer the balance of the error. Redeemer is in good shape to reach a balanced budget this year.

A MOTION was made to increase the Flower & Garden budget from \$3K to \$4K, to meet the deficit as well as accommodate flowers for the Advent Season. The reason for the overrun will be looked into. The motion was approved unanimously.

The audit has been successfully completed. Cover letter to diocese along with audit scope and letter of findings are being prepared and will be presented to vestry for approval at a future meeting prior to transmittal to diocesan finance office.

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

Vestry Liaison Reports:

Worship (Sandy): The Worship Committee was pleased with the Celtic Worship in October. The next special service will celebrate St. Nicholas and held on December. Liz Kinchen, National Director of El Hogar will be preaching on November 20 for Mission Sunday. The Christmas services will be Saturday, December 24, 4:00 PM (Creche Service) and 8:00 PM; and Sunday, December 25, 10 AM (no music). The committee had received feedback that the length of the service, particularly the special services, is long and they are looking to address that concern.

Formation (James & Emily): The Formation Committee had a full and well attended fall season of Christian Formation with encouraging feedback on the Stewards of Creation series. The Advent program will extend into Epiphany using the DVD series, *The Thrill of Hope*. The committee is finalizing plans for the late-winter/ spring calendar. The committee is actively working to identify and invite new members as well as exploring the possibility of an online discussion forum for Adult Formation topics.

Priest-in-Charge Report (Kate):

Much of Kate's time this past month have been spent on the discernment process, pastoral care, particularly with the addition of new Eucharistic visitors, as well as on worship, particularly the Advent and Christmas services.

Important Dates:

Next Vestry Meeting: December 21

Executive Meeting: December 12

Special Vestry Meeting with Priest-in-Charge Discernment Committee and Kate: December 10, 9:00 AM - noon

Save the Date for Vestry Retreat 2012: Saturday, February 4.

Acknowledgements:

Stewardship Sunday's sermonizers Jim Neumann, Chris Needham, Evelyn Hausslein, and Peg Wright; and to Jed Geyerhahn for organizing the details of Stewardship Sunday.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Antonevich, Clerk