

Trinity Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2009

Present: Ron Pogue (Interim Pastor), Paul McLain (Curate), Ellen Tracy (Senior Warden), Tom McCoy (Junior Warden), Margaret Bearse, Dave Edington, Donna Griffin, Mark Holmberg, Nancy Kelley, Garth Myers, Debbie Pitts, Joan Ring, Micah Seybold, Marty Smith, Susan Tate, Kent Tomlinson, Matt Lord (Treasurer), Maria Thompson (Clerk)

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Ron at 7:05 p.m. He led a prayer to open the meeting.

Declaration of Quorum

A count was taken and a quorum declared.

Approval of the Minutes of the August 2009 Meeting

Dave made a motion to approve the Minutes of the August meeting. Susan seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Matt announced his resignation, effective immediately. He will be available to help with the transition to a new treasurer, but he has other commitments that prevent him from being able to continue in the job.

Financial Report

- We are currently facing an approximate budget deficit of \$71,000, mostly because of unpaid pledges.
- We are \$5,000 below budget on utilities.
- We are on budget in most other areas.
- The operating line of credit at People's Bank has been extended.

Margaret made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Debbie seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Interim Pastor's Report

- Fr. Ron noted that the church staff and parishioners have been very welcoming to him.
- Fr. Ron is developing a list of items that will be useful for the new rector to know.
- The e-newsletter and Facebook page are being received well. We are continuing to work on improvements to our Web page.
- The office will be getting a new copier that will do much more than the current one does, and it will only cost \$3 more per month.
- We are still looking for a computer that can be used as a server in the office.
- 308 surveys were sent out by the search committees, and as of this date 138 responses have come back.
- Terry Garrett is working to make the financial reports easier to understand.
- We need to find a time, after the cottage visits and before Thanksgiving, when the vestry can gather to focus on strategic planning.
- We need to develop a policy regarding fund raising. Until a policy is in place, anyone wishing to raise money for any cause will need to bring their plans to the vestry first. Donna, Kent and Margaret agreed to develop a policy for vestry review.

Curate's Report

- The children's education teachers and parents have met regarding Vacation Bible School planning.
- We need to develop a program for third- and fourth-graders.
- Parents will be surveyed regarding children's education and ways to incorporate the parents so they will be more engaged.
- The adult forums on faith and the economy have been going well.
- The Northeast Convocation meeting was on September 19.
 - Fr. Paul's salary has been approved for 2010.
 - Our apportionment has been reduced for 2010 because of decreased revenue in 2008.

Senior Warden's Report

- The weekly e-newsletter has been a benefit to many people.
- Jonathon Jensen's installation as dean will take place in Little Rock on October 15 at 7:00 p.m.
- Ruthie Townsend and Nathan Haley have worked hard to produce and mail the search surveys and stewardship letters. We need to find a good way to show them our appreciation.
- A committee needs to be formed to find a new treasurer and help with the transition.

Junior Warden's Report

- Our electricity usage has gone down, especially since the signs were put around the light switches.
- The organ is scheduled to be tuned in October. A firm in Kansas City will do it for \$700.

By-Laws

Fr. Ron, Ellen and Kent will prepare the revised by-laws and present them to the chancellor for approval. The changes are:

- Twelve members, *including* the wardens, rather than twelve members *plus* the wardens.
- Senior warden will be chosen by the rector.
- Junior warden will be appointed by the vestry.

Stewardship Campaign

Vestry members will be given note cards and wording, and will be asked to write notes to parishioners about the October 18 campaign kick-off.

The Vestry Stewardship Affirmation was developed and there is agreement on the final wording:

Christian stewardship grows out of our response to God's "immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ." Desiring to glorify God, we pray for the grace to be good stewards of all of our time, abilities, money, and possessions in the service of Christ's work throughout the church and the world. We, the vestry of Trinity Church, acknowledge the church's teaching that the biblical tithe is the standard by which we measure our own giving. To this end, we commit to give with glad and generous hearts.

Audit

There was discussion regarding hiring Jim Long to conduct the audit for 2008. We would also like him to get started on the 2009 audit as soon as possible after the books are closed so that we might have it ready to show to rector candidates.

A motion was made to retain Jim Long CPA to conduct financial audits for the years ending December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2009, at a cost of \$2,950 for the two year contract. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Strategic Planning

Strategic planning needs to be done by the vestry, but can include anyone else of the vestry's choosing. The plan should cover our objectives for the next one to three years, and will be drawn, in part, from information gathered from the search surveys and cottage visits.

Spiritual Reflection

Margaret discussed the many times she's felt the holy spirit moving at Trinity.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. Fr. Ron led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Thompson, Clerk