

Christ Church Vestry Minutes
April 12, 2007
7:00 PM

Present: Linda Boyden, Sandy Durgin, Brandon Elliott, Andy Johnston, Bruce Kallos, Leslie Kelly, Bryan Keenan, Alexandra Kirtley, Tilly Maassen, Dana Robertson, Doug Yago

Absent: Rosanne Miller, Wil Sherk, John Price

Also Present: Henry Kirtley, Bill Field, Wendy Porter

The Senior Warden opened the meeting at 7:05 PM; opening prayer provided by Bryan Keenan.

Search Committee

Leslie Kelly read the report from Steve Boyden. (The Search Committee is also meeting tonight.) On April 11th, the committee met with Bishop Wright, diocesan deployment officer Gary Rowe, and Bob Brandt representing the Diocesan Standing Committee. Six candidates were presented for our consideration. The committee has assigned a liaison to each candidate and begun to plan the logistics necessary to carry out interviews and visits in a timely manner. A mock interview session will be conducted with one of our clergy to help our Search Committee test their questions and prepare for the actual interview process. This is the most crucial and exciting phase of the search process.

Minutes from the March 8th meeting were approved.

Campaign Steering Committee

Stewardship

Andy Johnston reporting. As of April 1, 220 pledges are in, totaling \$778,000. 61 are unchanged, 131 increased by an average of 14%, and 23 decreased their pledge. The net is a 4% increase. Several Vestry members expressed disappointment at the decreases; however, it was noted that financial circumstances do change for some. The campaign visits are working overall. There are 269 visits in the works that have not been completed; 140 pledge units unassigned. It appears that we will not reach our goal of an overall 12% increase in pledge amounts. Envelopes for 2007 were mailed to all who were pledging in 2006.

Capital Campaign

There is a campaign rally on Monday to help continue to energize campaign volunteers and maintain our momentum. As of April 1, \$3,017,131.80 has been pledged to the Capital Campaign. The committee is confident we will reach our \$4,000,000 goal by June 1. Other good news: the amount we will need to borrow for the 2007 construction is reduced to only \$400,000 based on expected cash on hand, and that figure may drop as more pledge payments come in. It was noted that we will need to have a team in place for the 2007 Every Member Canvass. To include our youth in the campaign, a second round of tiles is being planned.

Children and Youth

Sandy Durgin reporting. The proposed agenda for the April 22 Forum for Families was distributed. Noting that surveys are not new to our parish, the committee completed and distributed a children, youth and young families survey; it is also available on-line. A hard copy

was mailed to 250 families along with an invitation to the dinner and forum on April 22. The survey and forum event have been announced in our weekly eNews and in Sunday bulletins. 78 surveys have been completed so far. The deadline is April 16, but we expect some surveys to come in after. The surveys will be reviewed and analyzed by the committee and results will be reported to the Vestry. When the new rector arrives, we will have information to present. The forum on April 22 will be led by Father Roy Tripp, from St. Alban's. Sandy reiterated the need for a full review of our youth and children programs. It was noted that for 2007/8, several grades are being combined due to a decline in Sunday School attendance, and this again underscores our need for a review of our programs. There will also be a youth forum on Sunday at noon, run by our youth, with the purpose of brainstorming what outreach and in reach they can be doing; this includes grades 6-12. It was noted that our process of opening dialogue and communication around our children and youth programs is very much in keeping with our Year of Peace.

Year of Peace

Bill Field reporting. Bill, Mimi Nelson, and Sandy Anderson will be in Florida April 17/18 attending a Religion Learning Retreat with other grant recipients to discuss issues, processes, and suggestions, and also how the grant money is managed. Tom Evans will be here on Sunday discussing our Year of Peace from a government perspective.

Outreach Allocation

Brandon Elliott reviewed the proposed allocation for Outreach for 2007. \$183,050 in total has been allocated. It was noted that any agency that did not apply by the deadline or did not provide year-end reports or other documentation by the deadline was either dropped or cut. It was also noted that the total allocation includes estimates for several holy day plate collections that are designated for outreach. Outreach checks are sent to agencies in June. Concern was expressed, based on the timing of this year's campaigns, that a final dollar amount may not be known in May, when preparation begins for issuing checks. It was suggested that Outreach and Finance work together to ensure that when notifications go out in May, the letters in fact reflect monies that will be forthcoming. Our goal would be to keep the outreach budget at the full proposed allocation. It was noted that the budget was developed using an estimated 8% increase in pledges; so far we are seeing a net increase of only 4%. Discussion continued on whether to table action until May or to pass the allocation at this meeting. Bruce Kallos moved, Doug Yago seconded, that barring significant changes in the budget, the Vestry supports the full \$78,000 budgeted for outreach.

CCEP

Doug Yago reporting. Lindsay McConnel, a mother of one of our preschoolers, has been added to the board as Sarah Kashner's replacement and comes with excellent credentials. The Vestry approved her addition to the board. CCEP board representatives and CCCH Finance Committee will meet to discuss cost allocations and are getting input from other parishes that have similar models. Safety has been an issue the preschool has been focusing on and addressing recently. Bylaws are still in progress; CCEP will provide Bryan Keenan with a list of current duties and responsibilities of the preschool board.

Building and Grounds Committee

Linda Boyden reporting. First construction meeting was this week and those meetings will continue weekly. There is a project manager now on site. Linda outlined the preliminary steps and processes going on now, in advance of receiving the building permit. A letter will be sent to

all wedding couples that will explain how the construction will affect weddings this summer. The contractors have weddings and other important dates on their calendars. An article will be prepared for the May *Communicator* that will detail what prospective rectors will see from a construction perspective during their visits to Christ Church. Construction updates will be included in all *Communicators* going forward.

Finance Committee

Bruce Kallos reporting. Bruce reviewed the parish's pension fund and the committee's recommendation that funds be moved from Wachovia Bank in Philadelphia to Wachovia Securities in Wilmington. Bruce Kallos moved, Alexandra Kirtley seconded, that the Vestry authorize the Clerk to execute documents required to transfer Christ Church pension funds as recommended.

Clergy Staffing after June

With Wendy Porter leaving in April and John Price's year commitment coming to an end, Bishop Wright has recommended Carl Kunz as priest in charge for the duration of our transition period. He would be paid as a consultant based on the Diocesan "Active Clergy Guide." It was also suggested that George Karney be invited to supplement our clergy staff for weddings, funerals, and pastoral care. Also in the works is a potential youth coordinator who would be with us for a year before she enters seminary. Bishop Wright is pursuing this on our behalf.

Thanks to Wendy Porter

All Vestry members expressed their heartfelt thanks to Wendy Porter and applauded her wonderful ministry among us.

Gift Purses

After discussion, Sandy Durgin moved, Linda Boyden seconded, that the Vestry tackle the issue of gift purses for departing staff members and develop policies and guidelines for providing the parish a way to adequately give thanks for their tenure among us. A subcommittee was appointed and will report to the Vestry at the May meeting.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Robertson, Clerk

Next meeting is Thursday, May 10th at 7:00 PM.