

Christ Church Vestry Minutes
March 13, 2008
7:00 PM

Present: Sandy Durgin, Brandon Elliott, Andy Johnston, Bruce Kallos, Rosanne Miller, Dana Robertson, Bitsy Robins, Judy Sargent, Wil Sherk

Absent: Steve Brodt, Tilly Maassen, Ann Wick

Also Present: Susan Casscells

The Rector called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM; opening prayer provided by Bruce Kallos.

Minutes from the February meeting were approved, with one correction.

Cluster Reports

Wil Sherk raised the issue of the motion that passed last month concerning our direction to the Rector regarding the use of clergy discretionary funds. It was agreed that we may revisit that motion if desired for any changes needed.

Finance

The 2008 revised budget was presented with revisions based on latest pledging figures. (See website for parish budget). Susan Casscells reviewed the various adjustments the Finance Committee is recommending to balance the budget for this year. Coming in the near future is the ability to pay pledges by credit card. The Finance Committee is recommending that any pledge income received above the amount budgeted be used for the contingency fund and our diocesan pledge. Wil Sherk moved, Bruce Kallos seconded a motion that we adopt the Finance Committee's recommendation that any parish giving over the amount budgeted go first to any contingency draw and then to our diocesan pledge to bring us to our fair share. The motion passed unanimously. Bruce Kallos moved, Rosanne Miller seconded that we accept the revised budget for 2008 as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion passed unanimously. Several expressed a willingness to work with the Stewardship team to continue to contact parishioners who have not returned 2008 pledge cards.

Jessie Ball du Pont Grant Request

Wil Sherk discussed the idea of engaging a professional development person to assist the clergy, parish staff, and lay leaders with our stewardship and planned giving efforts. From the Consortium of Endowed Parishes, we have learned that this is considered a best practice and is common for parishes with our size budget. Wil suggested that we consider applying to the JBD Fund for a grant for such a person as an addition to our professional staff. This professional would be a great resource to the Rector and Vestry and would be helpful in developing our efforts toward using our parishioner database

effectively. Bruce Kallos moved, Andy Johnston seconded a motion that authorizes the Rector to approach the Jessie Ball du Pont Fund to inquire about such a grant. The motion passed unanimously.

Bruce Kallos followed up on what was discussed last month. Parish leaders are on board for various aspects of stewardship, but we are still searching for 2 leaders for the overall 2008 annual campaign.

The Rector reminded the Vestry that Buildings and Grounds and Personnel Committees report up to the Stewardship cluster. Currently there are no Vestry members on either committee. Andy Johnston noted that there are several new members of Buildings and Grounds, as that committee expands.

Parochial Report

The Rector circulated the parochial report for Vestry signatures. It was noted that our statistics indicate that less than 1/4th of our members are attending services on a given Sunday.

Warden's Report

The Rector's six-month review will take place shortly after Easter. Vestry nomination process is set to begin, with Andy Johnston leading the Vestry's Nominating Committee.

Rector's Report

See Addendum 1.

Other Matters

Dana Robertson moved, Wil Sherk seconded the adoption of the Parish Alcohol Use policy as presented to the Vestry at its February meeting (Addendum 2). The motion passed unanimously.

Sunday Schedule

Brandon Elliott reporting. With a committee forming on curriculum and program, and as we head toward the end of the school year, with our attendance and participation in Adult Ed and church school stable, this issue will be folded back into the Spirit Life cluster.

Closing prayer offered by Bruce Kallos.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM. Next meeting is April 10.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Robertson, Clerk

ADDENDUM 1

Rector's Report - March 13, 2008

Personal Our kitchen renovation is still under way, hopefully to be completed just after Easter. Gratefully, my contract allows for a week's vacation after Easter, which is when my children have their school break. I will be off from March 24 to 28.

Pastoral Two deaths have recently occurred. Canoe Daley died suddenly of a stroke on March 9. Her service will be Saturday at 11 AM. Anne Hombach died today, having been in hospice care for the last four months. Her son plans her service for Memorial Day weekend. We also have several members suffering various injuries to feet, ankles, and hips. I am grateful we have installed an entrance that allows them to enter for worship without steps to climb.

Staff I need the assistance of the vestry in presenting the policy we have established in recognizing clergy as they leave CCCH. We are trying to set the right tone for Bill Field's departure. The celebration on April 6 will include a presentation of a gift from the parish. The question is regarding the encouragement of monetary gifts to charities in his name, and/or contributions to Christ Church for the gift we present.

With great appreciation for her ministry as I began mine, I have accepted the resignation of Elizabeth Elliott. She will continue to support the ministry of children in this parish, but as a member of the congregation. This affords me ample resources to employ a full-time staff member for the ministry of Christian nurture among children and youth. She will complete this program year, serving into June.

The small team of members assisting me in the search for the senior associate are: Steve Boyden, Gina Pike, Martha Lankford, Rich Tucker, John Faulkner, Lu Johnston, Bob Brandt. I have not heard yet from Tilly Maassen but have also asked her to assist in this process. We will meet March 30 to develop the plan for our small group encounters with the candidates. One candidate arrives for a visit April 17-18.

Parish I have invited the Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham to preach at the Sunday services on April 20. Dean Markham is the new dean of my seminary, Virginia Theological Seminary. The evening before, Cal and Ann Wick are hosting a cocktail party for the dean and his wife so that alumni and benefactors of the seminary can meet him.

The pictorial directory project has been set aside while the staff prepare for Holy Week and Easter. We can anticipate a summer delivery.

Elizabeth Elliott has invited teachers and certain members of the parish who have gifts and a concern for children to join us in discerning the curriculum and program for 2008-2009. The meeting is April 1 in the evening. We can anticipate some reorganization as we create a program that nurtures the faith of our youngest members.

CCEP A question regarding the annual fund for the preschool has come before us. There will be a fund-raising event on May 1, a silent auction. The concern regards the inclusion of the congregation. Should they send invitations to the congregation by way of the Communicator and eNews? Not invite the parish? There has been some sensitivity around the development plans, but their budget was approved with an annual fund-raising goal of \$25,000 this year, and \$35,000 next year. They want to set good precedents.

Diocese I am pleased to announce that we will welcome the diocese here for the 2009 convention on March 27-28. Our facilities are large enough for the entire convention to be held on site, rather than at an area hotel. We will be forming a convention host team next fall to prepare for our ministry of hospitality.

Addendum 2

PARISH ALCOHOL USE POLICY

The Episcopal Church does not endorse the idea that beverages containing alcohol should be prohibited among the adult members of a parish community. Scripture offers Jesus' example of the use and serving of wine in his first miracle at Cana and in the institution of the Holy Eucharist. The Church also supports and has a responsibility to those people who abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages. It is recognized that the responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages in the presence of minors can provide a good example for the young people of a parish. The use of any illegal, mood-altering substances is forbidden at all times.

The following is a policy adopted by the Vestry of Christ Church Christiana Hundred pertaining to the service of alcoholic beverages at fellowship functions where adults are present:

- Wine, beer, and champagne are the only acceptable beverages to be served. Spirits are prohibited.
- When serving alcohol, all applicable federal, state, and local laws shall be obeyed, with close attention being paid to the law restricting minors from drinking alcoholic beverages.
- Alcoholic beverages must be clearly labeled as such.
- When alcohol is being served, non-alcoholic alternatives must always be offered with equal attractiveness and accessibility and in equal amounts.
- The serving of alcoholic beverages on the premises of Christ Church Christiana Hundred should not be publicized as an attraction of the event (i.e. a wine tasting).
- Food must be served when alcohol is present. Alcoholic beverages should cease being served well before an event ends and while food remains out.
- Community groups other than those supported or sponsored by Christ Church Christiana Hundred may not serve alcoholic beverages of any kind.