

**Christ Church Vestry Minutes**  
**May 10, 2007**  
**7:00 PM**

**Present:** Sandy Durgin, Brandon Elliott, Andy Johnston, Bruce Kallos, Bryan Keenan, Leslie Kelly, Alexandra Kirtley, Tilly Maassen, Rosanne Miller, John Price, Dana Robertson, Wil Sherk, Doug Yago

**Absent:** Linda Boyden

**Also Present:** Caty Anthony, Maggie Younger, Susan Casscells, Bill Field

The Senior Warden opened the meeting at 7:03 PM; opening prayer provided by John Price.

**Search Committee**

Jennifer O'Connor and Steve Boyden reporting. Earlier in April, our Search Committee, in conjunction with their consultants, refined and updated the search process for the current interview and selection phase. Formerly, the process consisted of each of the 6 candidates making one visit to Christ Church for an interview, our visit to their home parish, and then a decision was made and forwarded to the Vestry. The reality in the secular world is that multiple interviews would normally take place for this level of position. Therefore, our process has been refined as follows: all 6 candidates visit Christ Church and are interviewed by the Search Committee, using the same series of questions for each candidate. Members of the committee are visiting all candidates at their home parishes. After review and discernment, the committee agrees on a short list of 2 or 3 final candidates, who are then invited back for a more extensive visit that includes meetings with staff and Vestry. During this second interview, additional or follow-up questions will be asked that may have been brought to light as a result of the initial interview, and time will be included to show them the Wilmington area. The second round of interviews with the short list of 2 or 3 will take place in June. The committee informed the Vestry that members have received pessimistic and cynical comments from the parish at large. Contrary to those opinions, the committee is very excited about the interactions they have had so far with all the candidates. All candidates are very highly qualified, which validates our process and confirms that the Bishop and Standing Committee have been very successful in its work on our behalf. Discussion followed. Based on our current status in the process, we expect to make a call this summer.

**Minutes** from the April 12 meeting were approved with corrections.

**Campaign Steering Committee**

Andy Johnston reporting. As of May 10, \$3,327,000 has been pledged to the Capital Campaign. Calls continue to be made, and letters have gone out.

Susan Casscells reported for Stewardship. 260 pledging units so far totaling \$824,689. This is 59% of our budget goal for 2007. There are parishioners who have not completed pledge cards but are contributing in 2007.

**Children and Youth**

Sandy Durgin introduced Maggie Younger and Caty Anthony, who reported that a new youth committee has been formed to create new activities and programs. For example, high school

youth will mentor younger members. This will help to create a sense of community within the youth of CCCH. A few activities will also be taking place, planned, and put on by the youth. The Vestry's help and support was asked as the creation of a new youth voice takes place in the parish. Discussion followed. The Vestry asked what they could do to assist and were advised that the new committee will look to us for assistance once their planning is under way and more details are worked out. The youth will report to the Vestry on a quarterly basis. Elizabeth Elliott will be the advisor from the professional staff. Youth from other churches are being consulted to help generate ideas and discuss other programs. A celebration of children and youth will take place on June 10. Youth will be involved in the 10 AM service, which will be followed by a carnival and picnic.

Sandy Durgin reported on preliminary data from the children, youth, and young families survey. Opinions and responses cover a broad spectrum; however, it was clear from the survey that most would like a dedicated youth minister on our staff. The data is still being analyzed and discussed by the committee. Also presented was a summary of the April 22 family forum, which continues to be analyzed and discussed by the committee. Next steps: a clearer summary of all feedback and an action plan developed including reporting back to the parish, and possibly another forum to discuss the results. The committee is still determining if more feedback or data is needed. It was asked if there were some initiatives that could be put into place now to help better serve the population that includes children, youth, and their parents. Discussion continued on the various issues, including the service schedule and the character of the 9 AM service. The clergy have oversight for the content of all services. It was also noted that many parishioners are looking for more meaningful adult education and Christian formation for our adults who are parents. The committee was asked to report again on these issues at the June meeting.

### **Finance Committee**

Susan Casscells reporting. The March financial town meeting has received very good feedback. Buildings and Grounds presented a 20-year plan to the committee. The auditors completed their work and have made some recommendations. Agreements have been reached between CCCH and CCEP for allocations. 2007 first quarter results: 28% of the goal for pledge income has been received, compared to 31.5% last year. For the capital projects cash flow, the committee estimates we will need to borrow \$350,000 or less for 2007. This is a decrease in what was previously reported. A line of credit can be arranged as opposed to borrowing from the endowment fund. Given the state of the market and the lowered amount needed to draw for this year's construction, the Finance Committee determined that pursuing a line of credit will cost less than borrowing from the endowment fund. Wil Sherk moved, Bruce Kallos seconded a motion to direct the Finance Committee to arrange a maximum line of credit with Wilmington Trust for \$500,000 until 2008. Discussion followed. The motion passed, with 1 abstention. Finance still does not have a clear picture of this year's budget. We do know that clergy salaries and expenses will be less than expected.

### **Outreach**

Following up on last month's discussion, Bruce Kallos moved, Alexandra Kirtley seconded that the full allocation for Outreach, \$78,000, be given for 2007. Passionate discussion followed, with opinions both for and against any additional cuts to the proposed budget coming from Outreach. The Vestry is very aware that opinions of the parish are much divided on this issue. It was acknowledged that many parishioners believe strongly that Outreach should be a higher priority in the budget, while others are equally vocal that the focus of our budget should be within our own

parish, noting that many give financial support to these agencies outside of their Christ Church pledge. With 2 opposed, 10 in favor, the motion carried. This was done with the knowledge that the Vestry may need to approve additional cuts in our budget, which could affect programs and staffing.

### **CCEP**

Doug Yago reporting. Work continues on the bylaws, and they should be ready to present at the next board meeting. The board is currently surveying families and teachers to get feedback on our first year and school curriculum. We have identified the need to reinstitute the safety committee. The first step has been taken toward accreditation by the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Maryann Younger and Doug Yago will be holding a meeting with the staff concerning the departure of our first director, to address any remaining questions around that issue. 2007/8 enrollment is full.

### **Year of Peace**

Ed King, our liaison with the Jessie Ball du Pont Fund, is planning on an on-site visit to one of our functions. A slower summer pace is planned. Friday evening movies will be offered, with the hope of generating discussion around the topic of peace, using a facilitator. Planning is now under way for the fall. Katie Kennedy will come in to speak on reconciliation in the parish and address how we go about living with ourselves and looking at change in a way that does not divide, learning basic principles that can be put into place for preemptive peace. A second grant is planned that will take us out another 3 or 4 years.

### **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

Our building permit has been received, so the contractors will begin their preparation and demolition work on Monday. We will be using only the front door of the church once construction begins. Pedestrian and car traffic patterns may be revised. Expected installation of the parish house and garage roofs is late July. Bids for the future playground will begin next week, with completion expected by the end of the summer. A proposal was received from Scott Poole of the Parish Life Committee to identify and assess needs and issues of the kitchen. The Vestry has referred this to Building and Grounds.

### **Miscellaneous**

Annual Meeting Voting Roster: John Price suggested, given the circumstances of the joint campaigns this year, that we use data from both this year and last year to determine the voting roster for the next annual meeting year. Wil Sherk moved, Bryan Keenan seconded that we will invoke a one-year suspension of our voting roster practice in favor of including pledging members from 2006 and 2007. Andy Johnston will draft a letter to the parish that clearly communicates this.

Clergy staffing is now in place for the summer and until a new rector begins. A letter was sent parish with the details.

The purse tradition subcommittee has met once and will continue to develop a proposal to bring to the Vestry.

The June 16 youth trip to Jalonga includes 24 youth and 4 chaperones: John Taylor, Rosanne Miller, Cathy Parsells, and Val Mascitti. This year's participating youth are slightly younger than those who went on previous trips. A fund-raising bake sale will be held this week.

Brandon Elliott reported that an outreach grant from CCCH to one of our local agencies enabled them to hire a part-time fundraiser who is helping them initiate a campaign to raise \$114,000.

Closing Prayer by Alexandra Kirtley

Next meeting is June 14, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Robertson, Clerk