

Christ Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Vestry
Tuesday, January 14, 2014

Present: Rector Joanna P. Hollis; Rector's Warden Paul Ambos; People's Warden Donald Edwards; Vestrymembers Kelly Bogan, David Burns, Gerri Callahan, Bob Chant (arrived 7:56 p.m.), Peter Clarke (arrived 7:46 p.m.), Andrea Cunnell (via telephone 8:39 p.m.), Carole Forsythe, Catherine Hunt (via telephone 7:53 p.m.), Judith Kuldinow, Effie Lamptey, Melisande Skillicorn, and Julia Smout (via telephone 7:35 p.m.).

Also Present: Jonathan Gloster, Treasurer

Rector Joanna P. Hollis called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Hollis deferred the opening prayer until after Bible Study on Matthew 4:18-22, to allow Julia Smout to call in.

Following Bible Study, Julia Smout gave the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 10, 2013: People's Warden Don Edwards moved adoption of the minutes as distributed, which was passed without objection, vestrymember Gerri Callahan abstaining.

Correspondence: Clerk Gerri Callahan reported that there was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jonathan Gloster presented his written report, highlighting various portions. He noted typos: "Christmas appeared" should be "Christmas appeal" in the first paragraph and "CPR trading" should be "CPR training" in the entry on line 5323. Mr. Gloster stated that the 2013 deficit is \$87,714. He stated that there might be minor changes, and he will present them at the Annual Meeting. Vestrymember David Burns asked about the projected deficit, to which Mr. Gloster stated that it was \$47,150 and the actual with the draw-down is approximately \$87,000. Mr. Gloster noted that health insurance and property contractors are \$40,000 over budget, which explains the difference between the \$47,000 and \$87,000.

Rector's Warden Paul Ambos moved to accept the Report and file for audit, which was approved unanimously.

Reports by Title

Stewardship: Stewardship Committee Co-Chair Don Edwards submitted a written Stewardship Report, January 14, 2014.

Exterior Restoration: Mr. Ambos stated that he had sent an e-mail with the report prior to the meeting and distributed prints.

Rector's Report: Rev. Hollis submitted a written Rector's Report, Vestry Meeting January 2014.

Mr. Edwards moved to accept the Reports by title. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Finance/Budget: Finance Committee Chair Carole Forsythe distributed a chart with six options for the 2014 budget. The Vestry engaged in detailed discussion of the various options. In response to Mr. Burns' question, Mr. Gloster explained how capital expenses work in relation to investment account. He noted that the budget is for operating expenses, not capital expenses, explaining that the operating budget includes property maintenance, while the capital budget includes long-term expenses such as the new alarm system.

The Vestry discussed the Diocesan fair-share asking, evaluating the asking over the past seven years, noting that Christ Church had not paid 100 percent of the asking over those years. Mr. Ambros provided information concerning the asking and pledge percentages of various congregations throughout the diocese that had roughly the same Line A Parochial Income as Christ Church. Mr. Burns expressed concern that the fair-share asking incorporates the draw down and, therefore, Christ Church essentially is paying a surcharge for using the investment account to pay expenses. Vestrymember Kelly Bogan noted that over the past seven years, Christ Church has paid an average of 77 percent of the asking. Noting the serious financial situation facing Christ Church, Vestrymember Julia Smout opined that paying a large percentage of the asking at the expense of the financial health of Christ Church did not benefit either Christ Church or the Diocese. Many Vestrymembers agreed with this.

The Vestry discussed the music program and various options, including proposed salary changes with the paid choristers and the Director. All agreed as to the importance of maintaining a quality music program and the need to keep the status quo for this budget year. All also agreed, however, that given the significant financial issues facing Christ Church, serious thought needs to be given to fundraising to supplement the budget.

Each Vestrymember expressed his or her thoughts on a preferred option.

The Vestry recessed at 9:40 p.m. and reconvened at 9:49 p.m.

Rector Hollis summarized the discussion on the various issues. After hearing the Vestry's comments and concerns, Rector Hollis presented an "option seven". Option seven is to budget \$4,700 for the paid section leaders, use \$4,700 from the music fund for the paid section leaders and pay 70 percent of the diocesan fair-share asking, all as options based on the draft budget reviewed at the January 5 meeting.

Mr. Edwards moved option seven for the budget, which passed unanimously.

In adopting the budget, the Vestry noted that it is imperative that the financial state of the parish be clearly communicated to the congregation so that all understand the seriousness of the financial situation. As noted during the budget discussion, the investment account cannot sustain budget shortfalls long-term.

Annual Meeting: Annual Meeting Co-Chair Don Edwards reported that the Committee is finalizing the nominees for the various positions. He advised that there will be a combined service at 9:30 a.m. on February 2 with the Annual Meeting following at 11 a.m. The Committee hopes that holding a combined service will allow more people to attend the Annual Meeting.

Old Business

None scheduled

New Business

Topics on the Mind of the Vestry: Rector Hollis distributed a flyer on Vestry 101 and asked that anyone interested contact her.

Rev. Hollis advised that she has been in touch with the New Brunswick Parking Authority about the changes on Sundays in the parking garage. She reported that the Authority forgot to notify the Church. The Authority will provide Christ Church with parking vouchers for Sundays. She is still gathering information about other issues and will report back.

Vestrymember Andrea Cunnell advised the Vestry that the Black Heritage event is February 22 and urged all to buy tickets.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on consent at 10:22 p.m. and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerri Callahan
Clerk of the Vestry