

Christ Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Vestry
Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Present: Rector the Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis; Rector's Warden Paul Ambos; People's Warden Sheila Cooper; Vestrymembers Beth Binde, Kelly Bogan, Andrea Cunnell, Carole Forsythe, Melbourne Garber, Effie Lamptey, Debra Lowe, Andrew Murphy, H. Arthur Phillips, and Melisande Skillicorn.

Also Present: Treasurer Jonathan Gloster (via telephone)

Absent: Vestrymembers Gerri Callahan and Judith Kuldinow.

The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and in the absence of the Clerk appointed Rector's Warden Paul Ambos as secretary of the meeting. Opening prayer was by Vestrymember Mel Garber. Dwelling in the Word was on Mark 1:14–20.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Ambos moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2014 as distributed. The motion carried unanimously (Cunnell, Lowe, and Garber abstaining). He moved to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 14, 2014 as distributed. The motion carried unanimously (Garber abstaining).

Correspondence: There was no reported correspondence.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jonathan Gloster discussed his written Treasurer's Annual Report in lieu of a monthly report. He advised that the figures in the report are fairly complete but subject to bank reconciliations and possible category corrections. Pledge income was up \$3,000 over budget, but plate offerings were \$12,000 under budget. Due to lack of a Christmas Appeal, miscellaneous and designated gifts were down. Transfers were slightly less than in 2013. Although actual expenses were some \$7,500 under budget, there was still a deficit of \$77,000, including capital expenses. Vestrymember Cunnell asked why the health insurance amounted to \$30,000, and Mr. Ambos replied that these were costs mandated under the Denominational Health Plan for The Episcopal Church as available in our diocese. She responded that this was much more than the market rates, and something ought to be done. Mr. Ambos moved to accept the report and file for audit. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports by Title

Rector's Report: Rev. Hollis submitted a written Rector Vestry Report, January 2015. Rev. Hollis noted that she had been appointed to the Diocesan Commission on Congregational Development. She thanked all who got their annual reports in early. Written materials for the Leadership Retreat should be distributed by January 25. The Missional Leadership Report draft from last month was still being revised.

Committee Reports

Stewardship: Stewardship Committee Co-Chair Andy Murphy submitted a written report. Average pledges are up but number of pledging units are down. He hoped to have a followup letter by the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting: Annual Meeting Committee Chair Artie Phills noted that the final slate had been distributed and thanked the other members of the committee and the committee's nominees. He is collecting bios for all candidates for the Annual Meeting.

Finance: Finance Committee Chair Carole Forsythe had nothing new to report. The Committee will be working on updating the Mustard Seed Account description.

Music: Music Committee Co-Chair Andrea Cunnell distributed a written report. She is frustrated by the loss of the choir section heads as a sign of diminished spirit that will lead to the end of the historical excellence of the parish music program. Rev. Hollis noted that she and John Sheridan had met in October/November with an outside consultant, the Rev'd Gina Walsh-Minor, to review options and make strategic plans.

Old Business:

Insurance and Personnel: Chair Debra Lowe distributed written reports. The Rector's Job Description was still in progress. A mutual ministry review was planned and should be done annually.

Coffee House Project: Rev. Hollis had no report other than Steve Caruso's Facebook contents.

Topics on the Mind of the Vestry: Rev. Hollis directed that the Fundraising /Special Events Committee report be moved from February to March.

People's Warden Sheila Cooper announced a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at the church on February 17, at a minimum suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$20 for a family of four or more.

Effie Lamptey called for a meeting of the Fundraising/Special Events Committee: New ideas are needed. Rev. Hollis noted that there would probably be a new chair, and this can be organized after the next vestry meeting.

Ms. Cunnell reminded of John Sheridan's organ recital this Saturday evening and also the Black Heritage Night event of February 7.

Mr. Ambos thanked the vestry for their work and for his opportunity to have worked with them over the past several year, since this would be his last vestry meeting. Rev. Hollis offered thanks to him and to those Vestrymembers rotating off the vestry: Kelly Bogan, Gerri Callahan, and Judith Kuldinow.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on consent at 8:45 with Compline led by Mr. Garber.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Ambos
Secretary of the Meeting