

Christ Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Vestry
Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Present: The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis; Rector's Warden Artie Phillips, People's Warden Sheila Cooper; Vestry members: John Ager, Beth Binde, Carole Forsythe, Mel Garber, Jean Houvener, Mervis Johnson, Penelope Lattimer, Debra Lowe, Andy Murphy, Beverly Stott, Patricia Warren

Also Present: Treasurer Jonathan Gloster (via phone), Parishioner Meg Hall

Absent: Vestry member: Austin Cooper,

Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM with opening prayer by Sheila Cooper

Dwelling in the Word was Psalm 23

New Business:

Vestry member Mervis Johnson and parishioner Meg Hall presented on Stephen Ministries. They attended a half-day session on the program in fall 2015. Mervis and Meg floated the idea with the Vestry because a lot of emphasis is placed on pastoral care; we need to shift to community care. In addition, one of the recommendations from consultant, Kim Fletcher was to create a strategy around pastoral care.

In the Preliminary Report to the Vestry dated March 28, Mervis and Meg stated "the Stephen Ministry trains lay leaders (Stephen Leaders) to train lay pastoral caregivers to enhance the ability of parishioners to care for one another and for their community. The Stephen Ministry was founded in 1972 in a congregation in St. Louis, Missouri, by a pastor also trained as a clinical psychologist." "The Stephen minister accompanies a person through bereavement or other transitions (divorce, job loss, caring for a chronically ill person, birth of a child, move to a new town) usually meeting the cared-for person for one hour per week."

There is a one-time fee of \$1,645. The cost of the week long training seminar is \$1,097 per person plus \$187 per person for the training manual; total cost for training is \$1,284 per person. Rev'd Hollis stated that other parishes in our Diocese have a Stephen Ministry and it may be something we consider in the future.

Review of Consent Agenda: The consent agenda was moved for approval.

Fellowship Committee Chair Beverly Stott submitted a written Fellowship Committee report. She passed around a sign-up sheet for hosting coffee hour. She recommends that each Vestry committee host one per year. While we don't want to discourage people who want to do something more elaborate, the refreshments should be kept simple: homemade or store bought baked goods and juice; enough to serve 25-50 people. People's Warden Sheila Cooper stated that there will not be a coffee hour on

Mother's Day, May 8, as there will be a pancake breakfast. For those Vestry members who don't want to host, they can contribute monetarily. In addition, Beverly will place a basket on the table during coffee hour for monetary donations.

With respects to the Rector's report, Rev'd Hollis stated that six people have joined Christ Church New Brunswick (CCNB); they all attend the 10:30 AM service.

Vestry member Penelope Lattimer recommends that the Financial Report and the Treasurer Report not be part of the consent agenda and be reviewed separately so that the Vestry members can focus on them. The Vestry members agreed. Treasurer Jonathan Gloster recommended that questions be submitted in advance. Because Jonathan does not get the financial data until Saturday before the monthly Vestry meeting on Tuesday, a discussion took place on changing the Vestry meetings from the second to the third Tuesday of every month. Due to conflicts with other meetings, it was determined that we will keep the meetings as scheduled for now. Vestry member Carole Forsythe stated that during the Finance Committee meeting on Sunday, April 17, they would discuss ways to get Jonathan what he needs earlier. Based on that information, changing the date of the vestry meetings will be taken into consideration.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jonathan Gloster highlighted several items. The overall income is on target and expenses are below budget. The accumulated deficit for this year is \$35,000. Shopscip looks negative, but that is due to the timing of the deposits. Jonathan, Carole Forsythe, Eric Sanders and Lisa Keenan are working on roles and responsibilities. Carole Forsythe moved to receive the report and file for audit. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: Clerk of the Vestry Debra Lowe reported no correspondence.

Old Business

Consulting Payment Discussion: Rev'd Hollis stated that she shared ideas on how we pay for the consultant in the Rector's Report. Rev'd Hollis informed the Vestry members that Bishop Stokes agreed to pay \$2,500 for Kim Fletcher's fees. The Bishop said he'd pay more, but would like a suggested amount. So far, Kim has received one-third of what CCNB owes. She has been working with us since January and it's now April.

Rev'd Hollis looked at our investments as a way to pay for leadership development. The Young Churchman's Fund, which has \$32,000 in the account, has been around since 1964 and was started by the DeVoe family. Today, the Trustees are the Rector and People's Warden. Rev'd Hollis called Alice DeVoe to talk to her about using a portion of the funds as she would want her to be on board. Ms. DeVoe does not support the funds being used for leadership development and reiterated that the funds are only for the youth of the parish. The Vestry discussed pulling from the other Youth Funds which contains approximately \$7,700.

The Vestry reviewed the estimates document from Kim Fletcher. Rev'd Hollis stated that this is the time to invest in ourselves: the parish and the leadership. The Bishop agrees. Rev'd Hollis thinks that Kim has been helpful. This is work that should have been done years ago. It's being done now for the future ministry and mission of the parish.

Vestry member Penelope Lattimer moved to use the Youth Funds available as proposed by Rev'd Hollis as outlined in the Rector's Report. Vestry member Beth Binde seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vestry member Jean Houvener proposed that the interest from the Young Churchman's Fund account be invested in stock. Treasurer Jonathan Gloster said that the trust specifies bank savings account; not knowing years ago that bank savings accounts would eventually earn zero interest. The Finance Committee will look into it.

Rev'd Hollis stated that we could use Kim's proposal action plan to communicate to the parish. She reviewed the items on the report with the Vestry members. Based on the amount of additional discussion required to determine next steps, it was decided that the Vestry would hold a special meeting before the May Vestry meeting to discuss our next steps and the proposal from Kim in more detail.

Topics on the Mind of the Vestry:

Rev'd Hollis informed the members of the Vestry that the Executive Committee meeting dates have been set for the year and are listed on the agenda if they want to add a topic to the Vestry Meeting agendas.

Rev'd Hollis reminded the Vestry members that April 24 is Recovery Sunday; there will be a special liturgy (12 Steps) and preacher. Different people will read each step. She asked people to sign up for to read.

Vestry member Carole Forsythe asked if we could get updated parish directories. Vestry members Patricia Warren and Penelope Lattimer volunteered to help. Rev'd Hollis will speak with Julia Utz.

Vestry member John Ager shared the volunteer sheet he created. He asked everyone to review and provide feedback at the next Vestry meeting.

People's Warden Sheila Cooper will resend the announcement rotation to everyone. She asked that if we are unable to cover our Sunday that we find an alternate and notify Julia. Rev'd Hollis asked that the mike stand be lowered after announcements are made. It impedes her view of the congregation.

The meeting adjourned on consent with Compline at 10:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra P. Lowe
Clerk of the Vestry