

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

Present: The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis; Rector's Warden Artie Phills, People's Warden Sheila Cooper; Vestry members: John Ager, Beth Binde, Austin Cooper, Carole Forsythe, Mel Garber (arrived at 8:14 PM), Mervis Johnson, Effie Lamptey, Debra Lowe, Andy Murphy, Melisande Skillicorn

Also Present: Treasurer Jonathan Gloster (via phone at 7:21 PM), Intern Andrea Treadwell

Absent: Vestry members: Andrea Cunnell, Cheryl Ann Stofan

Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM with opening prayer by Mervis Johnson

Trust in the Slow Work of God by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Review of Consent Agenda:

Vestry member Beth Binde asked what the co-existence project is mentioned in the Rector's Report. Rev'd Hollis explained that the project was started by Anna Ott and Mark Troutman and is a service where Christ Church New Brunswick (CCNB) partners with another parish. For example the events celebrating Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King Day are examples of co-existence projects.

Vestry member Austin Cooper asked if Rev'd Hollis will attend similar workshops and conferences in 2016 as mentioned in the Rector's Report. Rev'd Hollis said yes. However, there isn't a Black Clergy Conference this year. She explained that all of the conferences are in New Jersey, except Missional Leadership, which is in Minnesota.

Vestry member Andy Murphy made an update to the Stewardship Report. The second date should be 2014, not 2015. It should read: As of the end of 2015, we had 94 pledges committed, for a total of \$241,717 (average pledge \$2,571.46). For comparison's sake at the end of 2014, we had 104 pledges for a total of \$268,690 (average pledge \$2,583.56). Vestry member Beth Binde asked if there is any way to account for the decrease of 10 pledges from 2015 to 2014. Andy has requested a report from Eric Sanders, Assistant Treasurer. He will provide the Vestry with an update once received. Jonathan Gloster, Treasurer, mentioned that Eric went back through the pledge cards and is reconciling against names in the bulletin. A vestry member asked if pledge envelopes were in. They have been ordered, but they are not in yet.

Finance: Finance Committee Chair Carole Forsythe did not submit a written Finance Committee report because the report was reviewed last week during the budget meeting.

Annual Meeting: Rev'd Hollis stated that the Annual Meeting Committee met. There is a full slate. All Vestry Members should be at the meeting. Annual Reports should be submitted by Friday, December 15, 2015.

Music: Music Committee Chair Andrea Cunnell was absent and a report was not submitted.

Outreach: Outreach Committee Chair Mel Garber did not submit a written report.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jonathan Gloster highlighted several items. He stated that he received pledges on the last day of December. However, overall income is down \$40,000. We owe one more pension payment of \$3,660 for 2015. This will be adjusted in the annual report. Fundraising is showing as negative for the month because checks for ShopWithScrip have been deposited, but we haven't been billed for the cards.

Vestry member Andy Murphy asked what instruments are covered under instrument maintenance. Jonathan explained that it is just the piano. John is doing what is necessary to maintain them. They are trying to get rid of the pianos upstairs. John is managing this process.

Rev'd Hollis explained that the budget document will look different going forward. It will be easier to read; the detail report will still be available.

Carole Forsythe moved to receive the report and file for audit. The motion carried unanimously.

The Way of St. Paul: People's Warden Sheila Cooper stated that beginning Sunday, February 14, 2016, The Way of St. Paul (TWOSP) team will be leading a Five-Part Lenten Series from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM. Someone from TWOSP team will lead each forum. Vestry members were asked to support the Lenten Series by attending the forums. If parishioners aren't able to attend in-person, it will be available Facebook. The theme is Encounters with God in Worship.

Correspondence: Clerk of the Vestry Debra Lowe reported that the Reformed Church of Highland Park sent a letter thanking CCNB for its donation to the Take Ten Refugee Resettlement Fund. Treasurer Jonathan Gloster explained that the donation was the collection from Thanksgiving service.

New Business

Leadership Retreat: Rev'd Hollis reminded the Vestry members that the Leadership Retreat is February 12 and February 13. She will confirm that the amount for our stay is \$75 each. She would like payment prior to the retreat as she needs to send them one check. She was there last week for a personal retreat. So far, she will be facilitating the session. However, the Bishop is looking for someone and will pay \$2,500. If the Bishop finds someone and the dates don't mesh, we will have a regular Vestry meeting and postpone the retreat. Rev'd Hollis will let us know as soon as possible.

Old Business

Discuss the Parish Meeting: The Vestry reviewed the document given to the leadership team at the meeting held on December 6. Rev'd Hollis asked the Vestry to: identify themes and clarifying question; prioritize most critical things that need to be addressed i.e. actionable items. Next steps will be to email the group from the December 6, meeting to let them know that the Vestry started the work and that it will take time to do due diligence. The Vestry will revisit this at the Leadership Retreat.

Topics on the Mind of the Vestry:

Rev'd Hollis mentioned that there are Vestry members whose last meeting will be today. She thanked Andrea Cunnell, Effie Lamptey and Melisande Skillicorn for everything they have brought and contributed to the Vestry. Effie and Melisande are in charge of the food and refreshments for the Annual Meeting.

People's Warden Sheila Cooper mentioned that the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner will be held on February 9, 2016 from 5 PM to 7 PM. Parishioner Nayla Caruso will assist.

The meeting adjourned on consent with Compline at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra P. Lowe
Clerk of the Vestry