

Christ Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Vestry
Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Present: The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis, Rector's Warden Artie Phills, People's Warden Sheila Cooper, Vestry members: John Ager (arrived at 7:10 PM), Beth Binde, Austin Cooper (arrived at 7:27 PM), Carole Forsythe, Mel Garber, Jean Houvener, Mervis Johnson, Penelope Lattimer (arrived at 7:14 PM), Debra Lowe, Beverly Stott, Patricia Warren (arrived 7:06 PM)

Also Present: Treasurer Jonathan Gloster (via phone)

Absent: Vestry Member Andy Murphy

Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with opening prayer by Mel Garber

Dwelling in the Word was Luke 8:26-39

Review of Consent Agenda:

Outreach: Outreach Committee Chair Mel Garber emailed the Outreach Committee Report to the new Vestry email address. Only two Vestry members received it. Vestry member Beth Binde will look into the issue. Vestry member Beverly Stott read the report aloud. It stated that New Brunswick is hosting an Independence Day celebration on July 3 and Christ Church New Brunswick (CCNB) is hosting an Independence Day celebration on July 4; John Sheridan will play the organ. Beverly has CCNB materials to distribute to attendees at the CCNB event.

Dine Below the Line, coordinated by the social work intern Andrea Treadwell, was well attended. The cost to the food pantry was \$500. The current director of the food pantry will be leaving in August.

Vestry member John Ager asked how we capitalize on social service events. In the future, there should be a member of the newcomers/outreach committee in attendance. Treasurer Jonathan Gloster said that this approach works as people who have come to the July 4, event have come back to CCNB.

Adult Formation/Children & Youth: Adult Formation/Children & Youth Committee Chair Penelope Lattimer did not submit a report. A written report will be submitted after she has an opportunity to meet with Rev'd Hollis.

With respects to the Rector's report, Rev'd Hollis stated that she included a copy of the Food Pantry Coordinator job description for our reference. She is very concerned with the Food Pantry Director leaving and not having a social work intern to step in. The position will be vacant and to date, there are no volunteers for the director position, from the parish. Rev'd Hollis asked if the Vestry members could think of anyone in the parish who would do well and be right for this ministry. She stated that Pete Cornell has offered his stipend, but she has not had to take him up on his offer. Although the job description needs to be tweaked, the opportunity is posted on various volunteer websites.

Rev'd Hollis asked Julia Utz to include the Missional Leadership document (134 pages) in the Vestry packets for informational purposes only. Vestry member Patricia Warren mentioned that she was surprised and appreciative of all of the work that has been done; it captures the profile of the congregation very well.

Vestry member Patricia Warren asked Rev'd Hollis if she would share a report on her pastoral care activities e.g. how many people are visited by the pastors and others, phone calls, emails, cards, etc. She would like to know what is done and have a snap shot as it depicts the health and welfare of the church. Rev'd Hollis explained that pastoral care is not just the Rector's and Deacons' responsibility. However, she will do her best to capture the information; September will probably be her first opportunity to do so.

The consent agenda was moved for approval.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jonathan Gloster highlighted several items. People are making advance payments this summer; the communication strategy is working.

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

Correspondence: Clerk of the Vestry Debra Lowe reported that First Reformed Church sent CCNB a thank you note for hosting the joint Pentecost service and for dedicating the loose cash offering to the new church start in the local judicatory. Positive feedback on the joint service was received and they look forward in future joint events.

Old Business

Matter of the Estate of Gladys K. Anderson: Rev'd Hollis stated that there is nothing new to report at this time other than she spoke with the attorney who stated they will clear potential tax liability. There were no questions.

The Work: Rev'd Hollis informed members of the Vestry that Kim Fletcher was not able to join the meeting. She will be connecting with The Way of St. Paul team to help with Children in Worship. Kim will come to CCNB in mid-July to conduct the desk audits for her and the staff. On June 21, the members of the Vestry have a conference call with Kim to discuss the Mutual Ministry Review (MMR) process; Rev'd Hollis will not be on the call. Rev'd Hollis stated that she is working on forming a steering committee for the MMR; it will not include members of the Vestry.

New Business

Rev'd Hollis reminded the members of the Vestry of the Mid-Year Parish Meeting taking place on Sunday, June 19, after the 9:30 AM service. In order to have as many parishioners as possible attend the meeting, coffee hour will be held in the back of the church. The agenda will be our financial picture and the primary focus to be presented is "The Work" we are about to begin. Rev'd Hollis explained that she will lead part of the conversation and would like the Wardens to take an active role in presenting as well. She would like all Vestry members to be there. Rev'd Hollis asked the Vestry what we think the parish wants to hear. It was decided that the information presented will be: Tasks ("The Work") that we are

doing at a high level; accomplishments to date; where we are going with “The Work”. Vestry member Carole Forsythe will provide copies of the financials and Vestry member Jean Houvener will create a chart with timelines.

Vestry member John Ager suggested that we need a mission statement for “The Work” e.g. align the work of the parish with the needs and capabilities of the parish. We also need to be straightforward on our financial position and number of new pledgers. Vestry member Penelope Lattimer offered to assist Julia Utz with office assistance in preparation for the meeting. The members of the Vestry gave suggestions on which items to highlight at the meeting.

Topics on the Mind of the Vestry:

Vestry member Beverly Stott stated that only 13 people signed up to attend the Somerset Patriots baseball game; they need 30. Therefore, they’ll go independently and not as a group.

Vestry member Jean Houvener thanked those who attended the music concert for their support. There were 88 tickets sold in advance and 40 people paid at the door. The choir views singing as outreach.

Vestry member Austin Cooper stated that \$346.50 was made at the rummage sale. Any leftover items will go to the thrift store at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church. The Fundraising Committee plans to have another rummage sale in October and would like to hold it in the food pantry, a more central location or buy a table at a larger rummage sale.

Vestry member Mel Garber asked the Vestry members to pray for a friend of his who passed after a short illness.

Vestry member Penelope Lattimer thanked Rev’d Hollis for the email she sent out today regarding the tragic shootings in Orlando, Florida. Tomorrow’s Eucharist at 12:15 PM will be dedicated to the victims and their families.

The meeting adjourned on consent with Compline at 9:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra P. Lowe
Clerk of the Vestry