

Christ Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
March 28, 2006
Minutes

In Attendance:

Clergy: John S. McDuffie, Rector

Vestry members: Gene Sullivan, Senior Warden; Bob McCartin, Junior Warden; Christie Carrico, Margaret Cervarich, Dave Craig; Jane Follit, Donna Gentry, Charles Griffiths; Peg Hincke, Karen Near, Louise Wager

Father McDuffie convened the meeting at 7:40 pm with a devotion and prayer.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28

It was moved to approve the minutes of January 22 as amended. (Craig/McCartin. Passed unanimously.)

RECTOR'S REPORT

Sabbatical Planning

Father McDuffie summarized the plans for applying for a grant to the Lilly Endowment to fund a sabbatical in 2007. A committee comprised of himself, Christie Carrico, Karen Near, Fran Palmer and Gran Paules is helping to prepare the application which is due May 15. He outlined his planned activities to be included in the application and noted that the Endowment apparently likes to see a balance among study, rest and family time. He will present this in more detail at the annual meeting as part of the process for getting congregational approval.

To Grow or Not To Grow

The learning team identified three barriers to growth that it feels the congregation is ready to take on: 1) Staff size, 2) Infrastructure for ministries, and 3) Clear vision of where Christ Church wants to go. Betty McWhorter recommended that the church look for a young assistant rector who could also work with the youth, since efforts to hire a part-time youth director have proved futile. The financial impact of hiring a newly ordained individual as opposed to the currently approved part-time youth minister is approximately \$75,000/year. There was discussion as to how this position might be funded, whether the youth group could consolidate with other Episcopal churches and what type of person should be sought. **The Vestry moved to ask Father McDuffie to explore hiring a recently ordained individual who relates well to youth to serve as Youth Minister and to perform other ministerial duties. (Near/Cervarich. Passed unanimously.)** Concerns remain about future funding of this position, and Father McDuffie will continue to explore both a full-time and a part-time lay youth minister position.

Lease on Hillstrom House

Robin Melchiorre submitted a letter requesting an extension of her lease at Hillstrom House. **The Vestry moved to extend the lease on Hillstrom House through June of 2007 with an evaluation of future years at the time the lease next expires. (Near/McCartin. Passed unanimously.)**

Space Issues

With the move of the upper level classes of Christ Episcopal School to the Jefferson Building, the classrooms in the Church building are now configured for small children (small desks and chairs) and are no longer functional for the older Sunday school classes. A new seating solution is needed. Father McDuffie, Jane Pontius and Michele Craig are meeting to discuss how to manage this, as well as using the old music room, once repaired, as an option for Sunday School classes.

Father McDuffie would like to tell the Congregation about future building plans once the nursery and music room are completed, but there is concern that these will not materialize for lack of funds. The Vestry agreed that there should be a discussion with Christ Episcopal School about using money from the Capital Campaign to renovate the Dining Room, something which would benefit both parties. Emphasis should be placed on the history of the Church and the School working together as good stewards of the Capital funds to achieve much needed space and that this will continue as we explore future renovations.

Letter from Paul Cooney, Canon to the Ordinary

Father McDuffie received a request from Paul Cooney to visit with the Vestry to discuss the financial and other support provided by Prince George's Parish to the Diocese and the effectiveness of diocesan ministries and staff. The Vestry agreed to meet with him and Father McDuffie will schedule that visit.

CES NEWS

Gene Sullivan reported that Christ Episcopal School has enrolled 89 fewer students than budgeted for fall 2007, and this is likely to have potentially severe budgetary repercussions, especially related to the repayment of the loan.

NURSERY AND CHOIR ROOM CONSTRUCTION

Bob McCartin reported that Jim Chellini was concerned about the location and accessibility of the chiller for the new space. The contractor is in the process of getting a structural engineer to inspect the chiller as well as the necessary permits. Provided that the outcome of this inspection is clean and all permits have been secured, the nursery and choir room will be dedicated at the 9:00 and 11:00 am services on April 23. Christie Carrico suggested that this be used as an opportunity to raise funds to furnish the new nursery. Peg Hincke informed the Vestry that some memorial funds may already be available for that purpose.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Memorials

Peg Hincke reported that we need to dedicate the high altar cloth for Lynn Preston and the wooden cross in the Chapel for Wally Keene.

Property

Dave Craig reported that the brass historical plaques are up on both the Church and the parish house. In addition, Maura Kenerson paid for a very nice sign identifying the parish house. Renovation on the music room will not begin until school is out for the summer.

Welcoming and Communications

Jane Follit reported that the committee has begun discussing the feasibility of doing another pictorial directory.

Nominating Committee

The Vestry discussed who would decide which newly elected members of the Vestry get one, two or three year terms. All agreed that the person assigned responsibility for the finances should have a three-year term. Other candidates were informed that there was the possibility of shorter terms with re-election.

FINANCE REPORT

Charles Griffiths very briefly reviewed the financials, noting that there had been a surplus in February and that for year-to-date there was currently a surplus of \$12,432.67.

OLD BUSINESS

The Vestry approves, for the second time in accordance with the requirements of the Endowment Fund Board, requesting \$1000 from the interest on the endowment to

**compensate Rev. David Pollock for his assistance during Lent and Holy Week.
(Near/McCartin. Passed unanimously).**

NEW BUSINESS

Gene Sullivan noted that Community Ministries of Rockville has expressed heartfelt thanks to the family of Cindy Callahan for 12 years as meal donors at the Chase Shelter. The Vestry of Christ Church adds its gratitude for the expression of outreach to the most need in our community.

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 pm.