

Christ Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
April 25, 2006
Minutes

In Attendance:

Clergy: John S. McDuffie, Rector

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

Father McDuffie convened the meeting at 7:38 pm with a devotion and prayer.

MINUTES OF MARCH 28

It was moved and seconded (Craig/Near) to approve the minutes of March as amended. Passed unanimously.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Interview with Peter Swarr – Members of the Vestry who interviewed Peter Swarr were favorably impressed. Fr. McDuffie had checked references with individuals with whom Swarr had worked, both in Virginia and in Maine. All the references were universally laudatory, and affirming of his work with youth. Initially, while Swarr will be a Deacon, the workload on Fr. McDuffie is not expected to decrease, especially since he will also have to assume the role of trainer. Fr. McDuffie presented a revised salary/benefits estimate and the Vestry discussed at length the church's ability to obtain these funds. The current year (2006) was deemed to not be a problem since there would be funds available from the interest on the endowment and from Michele Craig cutting back her time to the originally requested amount.

It was moved and seconded (Near/McCartin) to authorize Fr. McDuffie to offer to Peter Swarr a position as Assistant to the Rector with contractual salary and benefits details to be determined in discussion with Fr. McDuffie, Gene Sullivan, and Bob McCartin. Passed unanimously.

It was moved and seconded (McCartin/Near) to use up to \$40,000 from the 2006 interest on the endowment to contribute towards the compensation for the Assistant to the Rector for the current year. Passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting – Dave Craig will present the slate of candidates on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Because of election protocol, the position of Senior Warden will be voted on first. After the Senior Warden (McCartin) is elected, Louise Wager will be presented to the congregation as the nominee to fill the Junior Warden position for the remaining one year. Following election of Senior and Junior Wardens, the remaining Vestry candidates will be presented en bloc. Agreements have already been obtained that Dave Giulieri will fill the two-year slot and Michael Hinds will fill the one-year slot.

Gene Sullivan and Bob McCartin will outline possible next steps in construction planning for the Church as part of the Capital Campaign. Gran Paules will present on Fr. McDuffie's sabbatical planning.

UPDATE ON NURSERY AND CHOIR ROOM

The work required by the Fire Marshall is expected to be finished this week and occupancy of the nursery could occur by Sunday if the Fire Marshall inspects it. All of the concerns raised by Jim Chellini have been addressed.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Gene Sullivan reported that the school is currently 39 students short of budget, mostly in kindergarten. This is a significant improvement over the previous report. The school is trying to increase the number of tenants on the upper floors since these will not be renovated for the school under the current financial constraints. There is \$300,000 due to the Capital Campaign this year from pledges and about \$150,000 remaining unobligated. The Wardens, Rector and Headmistress need to decide how this money will be spent.

John Marshall has requested that the church and school finish the Memorandum of Understanding. Shared use, exceptional expenses, and language related to potential sale of the building are the unresolved issues. Alison Olsen has agreed to the shared use split of 57% to the school and 43% to the church. Dave Craig, Fr. McDuffie and Bob McCartin requested a copy of the spreadsheet of square footage from Charles Griffiths. Exceptional expenses were described as those expenses (e.g. painting of the Murdock Room) which should come out of the Plant Fund from money given monthly to the church by the school in its rent payments. The Vestry noted that recently the church has taken money for such repairs from the interest on the endowment rather than from the Plant Fund. A more appropriate approach would be to add the amount of the endowment funded repairs to the Plant Fund, and then take it out to better reflect that the church is contributing to the Plant Fund.

COLUMBARIUM PRICING

Christie Carrico presented a spreadsheet showing columbarium pricing for other Episcopal churches in the Diocese of Washington. While Christ Church's prices for a single niche are commensurate with other churches in the Diocese, the double niche appear to be significantly underpriced.

It was moved and seconded (McCartin/Near) to price a single niche in the columbarium at \$1500, engraving included, and a double niche at \$2000, engraving included, effective January 1, 2007. Passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stewardship – Donna Gentry reported that there were about 20 people at the ministry convocation. The committee is working on the draft of a survey for gifts and talents. The Vestry recommended that this be widely disseminated by mail, handouts at the services and on the web during the month of May. The Ministries Fair will be September 17.

Property – Dave Craig reported that he needs a second quote on the bell tower roof repair.

Welcoming and Communications – Christie Carrico reported that the next Newcomer's Coffee will be May 21 and the Vestry is invited to attend.

FINANCE REPORT

Charles Griffiths reported that as of the end of March, the budget was \$41,653 in the black, due to pledges being ahead of schedule and music being behind schedule in spending.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Fr. McDuffie recognized retiring Vestry Members Karen Near, Charles Griffiths, David Craig, Peg Hincke, and Gene Sullivan.

Gene Sullivan gave a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.