

Christ Episcopal Church
Minutes of Vestry Meeting

February 27, 2018

Opening Devotion & Prayer

In attendance were The Rev. Cindy Simpson, Assistant Rector; and Vestry members: Christie Carrico, Senior Warden; Mary Barnstead, Geoff Fuller, Peggy Gilliam, Adebayo Lanionu, Meghan Matulka, Delia McCormick, Steve McNeil, Katherine Schexneider, and George Wolohojian. In attendance for a part of the meeting was Janice Musselman, chair of the Search Committee.

Christie Carrico convened the meeting at 7:03 PM; Rev. Cindy offered the opening prayers.

Review and Approval of the Minutes of January 23, 2018 meeting

There was a motion to approve the January 2018 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.

Search Committee

Christie reviewed the process to form the search committee, and all the steps and process followed to date. First, there was an announcement to the parish, with a call for parishioners to consider a call to serve. At the same time a number of persons were asked to consider participating in the committee. Prior to the meeting, Janice had sent out a packet to vestry members, including a breakdown of who had expressed an interest and who had been solicited for involvement.

Janice said a number of persons she approached to participate had declined to participate.

There was discussion on the overall possible list of potential committee members. While the Vestry did not think it appropriate for the Head of School to be a member of the committee, they did express the belief that she should meet with the Search Committee early in the process to outline the role the school plays in the life of the church and to be available if questions arise during the search process. The Vestry ultimately selected David Craig, Barbara Fennelly, Honore Kaseya, Susan Lin, Emily Pearce, Lynn Posorske, Stephen Renfro, Jim Suit and Mark Wright. There was a motion to approve committee as stated. There was a second, and the motion passed.

Vestry Charge to Search Committee

Christie opened discussion on the sample charge to the vestry, as provided by Rev. Paula Clark. There was discussion and agreement to insert as item #2, "be guided by the principles of openness, diversity and inclusiveness." Clarification on item #14 includes the desire for the committee to present "up to three" candidates, and to provide the list as "ranked" (preference order).

Following discussion, it was agreed that Christie will distribute the updated proposed charge, and send it out to Vestry members for review.

CES Update (including real estate) and approval of 2018-2019 budget

Christie reported the school is sending out contracts for next year's enrollment.

Potential buyers continue to look at the Jefferson Building.

Christie said she and a group from the school have met with the West End Citizen's Association, which is not in favor of consolidation of the church properties as recommended by the City. This same group has met with the city planners, who are in favor of a consolidation. The City has agreed that the consolidation does not need to include the Hillstrom and Thompson houses but to consolidate the church property, the Parish House, and the Foley property.

Finance Report – Steve McNeil

There was a surplus of \$7,000 at the end of January, including gifts for Father John's retirement.

The books remained open in January to complete and account for spending in last year. Overall, spending was about \$5,000 better this year (most of the savings were from the paid singers). Additionally, investments were better.

The cash balance plummeted in January, mostly as the result of capital campaign gifts (\$59,000) which were paid to the church and had to be transferred to the school. The Endowment fund had a \$90,000 increase, and even with the turbulence in the market this month, the fund is still aiming for the maximum income. Of note, \$8200 of \$24,000 for transition costs have been spent so far (expenses have been for parties and for supply clergy). Also of note, the mortgage swap is sitting at \$415,000 right now.

Update on the Capital Campaign: "Firm Foundation, Bright Future"—George Wolohojian

George reported on the capital campaign, saying the campaign will invigorate itself in next month or so. There have been a few meetings of the committee in recent months, discussing how to take next steps of the campaign. The focus for the campaign will be on the school (alumni, parents, etc.) The pledged amount is not quite \$2.5 million.

Nominating Committee

George reported for the nominating committee, saying first that Meghan Matulka has agreed to run again, and that Steve McNeil is also willing to continue for an additional year. A one-time amendment to the by-laws will be required to allow Christie to continue as Senior Warden for

one additional year. For these three positions, continuity will help the transition process. Peggy Gilliam's and George Wolohojian's terms will end in the spring and they will not run for re-election. A few people have been talked to about running for Vestry, but there is no complete slate yet. Christie said that the parish will need to be informed of the slate of candidates by March 22, as the parish meeting will be held on April 22.

Committee Reports

Environmental Stewardship – the committee purchased two toilets and asked the Property committee to install them. The upstairs toilet began to leak and flooded the kitchen. The kitchen ceiling will probably need painting.

Property – After reporting on the toilets for environmental stewardship, Geof reported the following on behalf of property:

- Two hand-held microphones have been purchased.
- A Dehumidifier has not been obtained for the Youth Room. A leak from drainage of water from the columbarium has been identified. More to follow on that at a future meeting
- There is a leak in boiler room.
- Directions will be written up for use of the stove in the kitchen, pertaining to the fire suppression system
- Doors which were sticking have been repaired

St Francis Flock – Meghan Matulka reported that tomorrow night is movie night - "Food Inc." For the next three weeks during lent, movies will be shown followed by discussion.

Pastoral Care – Cindy reported that the pastoral care group is moving along; four persons have been trained to conduct home Eucharist visits within the parish.

Outreach – Katherine reported the committee wrote three checks in February for outreach ministries. The committee is coordinating volunteer work with *A Wider Circle* in April.

Communications – Christie reported the committee is updating the church website with a section on the transition, and is updating pictures for the web site.

Fellowship – Other than funeral receptions, Christie reported, Fellowship is not doing much.

Adult Christian Formation – Mary Barnstead reported that Sister Maureen Fiedler's presentation was lovely. The committee is looking for new fresh members; she noted that she and Karen Near are two major members of the committee, and Jack Gregory may retire from the committee.

Welcoming – Bayo Lanionu reported the next newcomer reception will be in June.

Stewardship – Christie said pledges are still trickling in, and added that she will make a Ministry Minute talk in the coming weeks.

Old Business:

Mary asked about forming a committee to discuss possible changes to services (times, number of services). Christie said that will be on the agenda for the March meeting.

New Business:

Parochial Report

Christie distributed copies of the parochial report. The report has a new format, requiring significant time to determine the data for the report. Following discussion and review, there was a motion to approve the parochial report; the motion was seconded and passed.

Subcommittee for Interim Rector:

The following members volunteered to be on the committee for the Interim Rector: Peggy Gilliam; Christie Carrico; Katherine Schexneider; George Wolohojian; and Bayo Laniyonu, with Mary Barnstead as an alternate member.

DC Interfaith Network to Prevent Gun Violence

Christie reported that at the diocesan convention, Lisa Tarantino spoke with representatives of this network group. Lisa would like to serve as parish representative to this network.

There was some discussion on level of involvement; the network is mostly a conduit for information. Cindy commented the school will be participating with the *March for our Lives* on March 24 in Washington DC, and is inviting all to join the march.

Following discussion, there was a motion to join the DC Interfaith Network to Prevent Gun Violence. There were several seconds, and the motion passed unanimously.

Talk with Rockville Police

George said he has spoken with the Rockville police about holding a session on safety in the church. Ushers are the first line of defense, he said. The police are reaching out to parishes in area with safety information. An emergency plan for Sundays should be established.

Date of Next Meeting: March 27, 2018

Prayer and Adjournment

The closing prayer was offered by Christie Carrico, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dotty Reitwiesner