

St. John's Vestry Minutes

Tuesday, August 21, 2007

7:00pm-9:00pm – Library

Present: Mariann Budde, Ivy Booth, Craig Gudorf, Shelly Gill Murray (clerk), Kay Kramer, Dan Sutton, Susan Tapp, Michelle Dibblee, Bruce Mair, John Willoughby, Jan Olfe, Gretchen Van Scoy

Absent: Emily Peterson, Brigitte Parenteau, Rex Gaskill

Next Vestry Meeting: September 18, 2007

Craig Gudorf called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. After a scripture reading, the following action items occurred:

Action items

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the July 17, 2007 meeting minutes and approve the August agenda with amendment.

Finance Report

Bruce Mair led the discussion stating the finance committee report shows year to date total pledge contributions in July were \$1,000 over budget. Unpledged contributions were \$600 under budget for July. Total income in July was \$2,500 over budget. Year to date total income is about \$6,300 over budget. Existing pledges were \$8,900 over budget for the year. Total expenses in July were about \$4,500 under budget with the compensation coming in under \$3,400. Administrative expenses were about \$1,600 over budget primarily due to the website expenses of \$2,100. After a short discussion and a few questions,

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the July 2007 financial report.

Discussion Items

Devotions Sign Up

Mariann Budde stated that during staff meetings one individual is in charge of offering a scripture reading and she enjoys hearing others offer a new voice to scripture. Gretchen seconded the idea is a good one and stated that she likes the structure of having someone assigned to the task of offering the devotions. Mariann is suggesting that before the meeting ends, she wants one volunteer for next month to offer devotions during the vestry meeting and take one half hour to discuss the scripture. Michele Dibblee volunteered to offer September devotions using the Gospel for that week.

Announcement Sign Up

Craig led this discussion and asked that each member of vestry sign up to do announcements for a month at Sunday service. The schedule will be laid out for 6 months for two people – one person to offer at 9:00 and a second person at 11:00. Mariann will put together a monthly list to have the vestry sign up for the months of

Sept.- Jan. Craig and Emily will put together a short script of points that should be used every week. Whomever is assigned to announcements should also check in with the person presiding at the service to make sure there are no special announcements.

Nominating Update

Craig started by reiterating the nominating committee is a group put together to find members of the congregation to take on leadership roles in the church and help these members transition into the new positions in the church. The primary focus is to help with the search of the junior and senior warden and this year, find Justice and Peace leadership. Brian Wright is leading the nominating committee which will meet next week. The group will put together a list of qualified candidates and open it to more, as needed.

Evangelism Update:

Dan Sutton led this discussion stating the designs for the signage of the interior and exterior of the building are complete. He passed out pictures of the designs. Everyone was impressed. It is up in the air whether the seasonal banners will be used on the new signs. The sign for the exterior of the building costs around \$6,000. It will take around four weeks to get the work started after the final papers are signed. Finally, the website work is moving forward and the company that will redesign it has been hired.

Hospitality Update

Ivy Booth began the discussion stating Mariann and she met with Vicki Matson about Hospitality. There was an announcement in the bulletin seeking interested people who would like to help out. Only a few people responded. Ivy's plan is to have two people assigned to stand at the new entrance to help people find their way on Sunday. Ivy is not sure what, if any handouts will be used, but she plans to meet with evangelism to discuss the possibility. She would like to have interested people make a six month commitment to be greeters. She also stated the new hospitality group will not have duties that overlap with the coffee hour group so that the greeters can be fully free to "work the room" and act as hosts to connect people who are standing alone. Ivy envisions having four people each Sunday – two people before the 9:00 service through the education hour and then two more people for the 11:00 service.

Inreach Progress

Michelle Dibblee said 18 people responded to the call to help out with Inreach activity showing there is a significant interest in connecting people across the congregation. The group met last month to and discussed how it is important to meet with people who are single, couples with no kids and some who are new members. She would like to interview at least 100 households. To prepare, there will be a multi-church training on Thursday, Sept. 20 for the interviewers to get tips on how to make the conversations with congregants successful. In addition, on September 23 Michelle would like the group to make an announcement to let the congregation know that families will be called to set up meetings. Mariann responded that Sept. 23 may not work, but she will find a date and get back to the committee. On November 6 the group will hold a debriefing meeting for the congregation members who will visit other parish members. The vestry will also be

invited to the meeting. Ivy asked Michelle's group make an effort to meet with the elderly because at present we are doing so much to reach out to young families and young people. Michelle stated there will definitely be a group of elderly who will both be interviewed and conducting interviews.

Stewardship Update

John Willoughby offered a reminder that consecration Sunday is based on proportional giving and is designed to be a short run program. The feedback from last year was the structure was good and the process was respectful. Other feedback about the brunch was it was disconnected and did not provide enough acknowledgement/celebration. Space was also a problem because we lacked seating for everyone who desired to come. With regard to the consecration dinner, it should take place on Sunday night so we would have the pledge numbers from earlier in the day. It was also suggested we pass out to the stewardship committee and vestry members a short list of people to call who had not responded to the pledge cards. Finally, we also need to make an announcement of the number of pledge cards collected at the service. With regard to the consecration Sunday preacher, Mariann suggested we need to alternate between a clergy from another church and a lay person. Lastly, John stated he needs a co-chair since he is leaving the vestry at the end of this term. He also needs to find the people who will make announcements at church.

Music Search Update

Craig reminded the vestry the original goal was to keep the music director position as a one person position. The group received 20 resumes and agreed to interview six people for two hours each. Each candidate played an audition piece and the congregation was invited to listen. The search committee has narrowed the list to two to bring back for second interviews as well as one more candidate for a first interview. The two candidates who will be invited back are very different from each other. It is possible the position could be filled by early October. Mariann stated Richard Long will continue to fill in until someone is hired. There will also be an interim choir formed in September to get us through until the open position is filled.

Sexton Search Process

Mariann led this discussion stating Rollie's resignation really caught her off guard. Mariann, Craig and Emily all agreed it was important to have one warden oversee the hiring process. Emily has agreed to up head this search. A few people have offered to help out and about four people will sit down and figure out the job description. The position may be difficult to fill considering that Rollie was paid about \$16,000 a year and was available almost any time. While the hiring process is going on, we will need to find some alternative support for the many weddings in October. The party for Rollie will be in September.

Justice and Peace Update

Michelle Dibblee reminded the group the new commission will consist of six people. The position description will be sent to the 42 people in the congregation who have expressed interest in the group. Brian Wright and Craig Gudorf will lead the nomination

committee and the new commission will hopefully be in place at the end of September. Gretchen raised the question as to whether the Justice and Peace group will have a youth on the committee. She added the hospitality group and vestry would benefit from a youth voice as well. Mariann responded that as to the vestry, the youth position was tabled for a few years because it was not working. Perhaps it is time to reconsider that position and add one for the other groups. Further discussion was tabled to a future meeting.

Retreat Update

The vestry retreat will take place on October 12-13. Emily is strongly recommending an overnight away, but at this late date, it may be difficult to find a place for an overnight retreat. In the alternative, the retreat will follow the format from previous retreats, namely dinner on Friday night and then a morning to afternoon session at church.

After a prayer, the meeting was called to a close at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Gill Murray
Clerk of the Vestry