

Vestry Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 19, 2007
7-9 p.m. – Library

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

Absent: Dan Sutton, Brigitte Parenteau, Rex Gaskill and John Willoughby

Next Vestry Meeting: *July 17, 2007*

Emily Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. After a short prayer led by Mariann and an introduction of Gretchen Van Scoy, Minister for Children Youth and Families, the following action items occurred:

Action items

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the May 15, 2007 meeting minutes as amended and approve the June agenda with amendments.

Finance Report

Bruce Mair led the discussion stating the finance committee report says year to date we are \$300 over budget for gross income. There have been four new pledges this year and new membership has decreased from the past. However, the monthly report does not show any cause for alarm, this time of year tends to reflect a slump in income.

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

Despite the general budget concerns, the Imagine Building project came in way under budget by \$30,000. Emily proposes the money be spent as follows:

\$15,000 for building and grounds

\$3,000 for office furnishings

\$3,000 for interior decorating, including chairs and lamps

\$1,000 for maintenance of Sunday school classrooms

\$5,000 for signage both inside and outside the building

The remaining money will be kept for unforeseen expenses related to the above. The vestry members agreed that these amounts were appropriate.

Web Design

Emily stated that as a follow-up to discussions at previous vestry meetings, the evangelism committee would like to pursue its recommendation to design and build a new web site for St. Johns. The committee has chosen a group that can build the site for about \$4,000. The new web site could be completed by this fall and maintained by Debra Christianson. At this time, there are no funds budgeted for this purpose. However, the vestry feels strongly the project must be undertaken at this time. Therefore,

A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize the St. Johns evangelism committee to spend up to \$5,000 to redesign and build the St. John's web site.

J & P Report

Michelle Dibblee outlined the last six months of work of this group and stated the Justice and Peace commission is recommending the vestry commission a team to lead Justice and Peace ministries. The group recommends the team consist of six people, including a vestry member, to serve 2-year terms. This group will meet monthly with the support of a staff person and on a regular basis with the leaders of other St. John's ministries.

To form the new Justice and Peace committee, a nominating committee will take applications (making sure to open this process up first to those who have already been working on this ministry for the last six months) with an eye toward people with gifts in discernment, organization, communication and spirituality.

Craig Gudorf and Brian Wright agreed to lead the nomination's committee that will consist of 2 people from the vestry, 2 from the congregation and 2 from a recent past vestry. Following a limited discussion,

A motion was made, seconded and accepted to approve the recommended structure for a Justice and Peace commission and to direct the nominating committee to work in conjunction with the current "under construction" Justice and Peace group and begin the leadership development process for a new Justice and Peace Commission.

Finally, the vestry praised the work of the J& P group and especially Michelle Dibblee:

A motion was made, seconded and accepted to commend Michelle and others for their great work on the formation of a new Justice and Peace committee.

Fall In Reach

Michelle Dibblee led this discussion by saying that the Isaiah group is offering help with an autumn In Reach in which a group of St. John's members would participate in training and then volunteer to sit down in one on one conversations with various members of the congregation. The goal is to build relationships within the congregation, to discern the leadership skills of members of the church and to hear what is "on the minds" of those in our midst.

The planning team for this group includes Craig Gudorf, Michelle Dibblee, Catherine Bergeron, Brigitte Parenteau and Georgeann Vogel. The group would like to have twelve people conduct 3-5 visits each. First the group needs to decide who will be in the twelve and who should those twelve should visit. After the conversations are finished, the group would come together to compile the information they have collected.

After a discussion regarding whether this In Reach project should be undertaken in the autumn or some later date,

A motion was made, seconded and accepted to approve the current committee to continue the planning process for twelve members of the congregation to conduct 3-5 visits each and to make a committee report to the vestry in August.

Discussion Items

Music Director position

Craig Gudorf said he will lead the nominating committee process to find a new music director. First, he will convene a body of people with expertise, including musicians and others from the music advisory committee to draft a job description so the nominating committee can begin to interview candidates. Being mindful that the vestry recommended one person fill the position, the nominating committee will consider the possibility that it will take two people to fill the roles needed. Since several musicians are of the opinion that more than one person is needed, the possibility of hiring two will be considered, particularly in light of the amount of salary that is currently available. One vestry member commented that while two part time people may fill the diverse roles more easily, St. John's is seeking someone to devote his/her heart and soul to the job and that is difficult for people who are working part time with other time commitments.

Nominating Committee

Brian Wright has agreed to head up the nominating process for the new vestry members and help with the Justice and Peace nominations.

Fall retreat

Mariann will circulate some dates for an over night retreat in October or early November.

Stewardship Committee

Mariann stated that John Willoughby agreed to chair the stewardship committee again this year. He and those who worked on the team last year recommend St. John's use the same stewardship campaign format as last year with some tweaking to better suit our needs. One addition for this year will be to have children make pledges. Mariann would like to get a time line started this summer.

Ministries under construction

Mariann distributed a sheet outlining the current Ministries at St. John's and pointed out where our ministries are strong and where they need improvement or changes, including evangelism, adult faith formation, and liturgical leadership.

Building Use

Emily stated that she is drafting and reviewing policies for the use of the building because the requests increased significantly after the building expansion.

After a prayer, the meeting was called to a close at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Gill Murray
Clerk of the Vestry