

St. John's Vestry Minutes

Tuesday, November 20, 2007

7:00pm-9:00pm – Library

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

Absent:

Next meeting: December 18, 2007

Emily Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Kay Kramer led the devotions after which the following action items occurred:

Action items

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the September 18 and October 13, 2007 meeting minutes with corrections and approve the November agenda.

Finance Report

Bruce Mair led the discussion stating total pledged contributions in October were down slightly compared to a year ago, but October 2006 had five weeks and in 2007 there were only four weeks. Year to date the budget is on target or slightly over where the finance committee would expect it to be.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the September/October 2007 financial report.

Discussion Items

Nominating Committee Update

The discussion was lead by Mariann Budde and she stated that the nominating committee met recently and continues to work on finding candidates for the open vestry positions. Craig Gudorf declined the opportunity to become the Senior Warden next year, but Kay Kramer has agreed to step up into that position. Because the current Junior Warden has declined the opportunity to become the Senior Warden, the ongoing discussion about amending the bylaws to allow for a change in the Junior Warden's role will continue, but need not be presented for a vote of the congregation at the annual meeting. The committee is also looking into whether the church will have to nominate delegates for convention.

In reach Results

Brigitte Parenteau gave an overview of the Inreach process and said that ten out of twenty people who worked on the Inreach project attended a debriefing related thereto. Thirty-five congregants were called to participate and a sample of those visited offered the following impressions:

- The process was enjoyable and valuable

- St. Johns does a great job of honoring children, offering programming, providing good music and is open too all kinds of families.
- The preaching is good and the members pray for and support each other
- St. Johns is too intellectual, the members appear too “put together” and it is too liberal.
- The Sunday school classes are too full and the church is too small for all the members.
- The daycare interferes with the use of the church.

In general, people are concerned about Mariann leaving and would like to know her plans. As individuals, they feel overwhelmed with job insecurity, illnesses, transitions in their lives, the individualistic culture we live in and racism.

Some of those who participated as interviewers felt that the experience was community building and should be used on a regular basis instead of on a five year rotation. The feeling was one of strengthening the community “more from the heart, less from the head.” Mariann asked Brigitte to write up a summary for the newsletter. The discussion ended with a note that a second debriefing would occur to make sure all information gathered from the interviews could be integrated into the summary.

Stewardship Update

John Willoughby said that 121 pledges were received and \$341,000 was pledged. Last year at this time, we had 111 pledges totaling \$310,000. We are ten pledges ahead of last year but the average pledge stayed the same. He is hoping an additional 80-100 pledges will be received. The following is a summary of the feedback he received on this year’s stewardship campaign:

- While some felt that offering the pledges during the service was meaningful, they would like to have more “teaching” about it in advance as well as a verbal invitation to offer pledges other ways for those who are uncomfortable with the public pledge.
- More pledge cards need to be distributed in the rows instead of just having them at the end of the pew.
- The ushers need to hand out pledge cards at the beginning of the service.
- Parishoners should receive in their quarterly statement a note about their previous year’s pledge amount prior to consecration Sunday.
- Some people would like their pledge amount to be kept private.
- The brunch was beautiful, delicious and organized very well.

Building Use Policy Review

Emily Peterson said that she and a couple others are in the process of drafting a building use policy and at a future vestry meeting will need some feedback and a vote on some action relating thereto.

Hospitality

Ivy Booth said that her group is small, but when the people they have connected with at coffee hour, really appreciated it. The group plans to meet with Jay Hornbacher, who has been on a hospitality committee, so that he can give them some insight.

Web Site and Sign

Brigitte said that the web page will be up and running December 1. Vicki Matson will provide pictures. Dan Sutton said that he has been pressuring the sign people to finish, but does not have a good estimate for when they will be done.

Other Reminders

Devotions: Craig Gudorf will provide devotions for the December vestry meeting.

Announcements: A small board will be placed outside the vestments room so that vestry members can receive announcements there and present them to the congregation on Sunday.

After a Prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Gill Murray
Clerk of the Vestry