

Vestry Minutes
Approved April 21, 2011
ST. BONIFACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Date: March 17, 2011

Vestry Members Present: Ted Copland (Rector), Jim Palermo (Senior Warden), Reg Irvine (Junior Warden), Gary Buchmeier (Treasurer), Kathie Hayes (Asst. Treasurer), Carl Hye-Knudsen, Carol Marcus-Epperly, Henry Rhodes, Susan Rife, Richard Swastek, Becky Westbrook, Michael Walker, Sandy Wilbur, Bruce Wilson and Bill Wood.

Vestry Members Absent: Mary Tucker.

Other Attendees: Andi Taylor (Associate Rector), Neil Page (Music Minister), Nancy Wilson (observer) and Melba Hye-Knudsen (Clerk).

Call to Order: The Rector called the vestry meeting to order at 5:05 pm. He requested that Becky Westbrook read scripture and that Sandy Wilbur lead the group in prayer.

Minutes: A **motion** was made, seconded and adopted that the minutes of the vestry meeting held on February 17, 2011, be accepted as modified (the revision reflects that Bruce Wilson was not present at the February meeting).

Report on Schola Cantorum Siesta and Sundays at Six: The Rector asked Neil Page, the St. Boniface Episcopal Church's Minister of Music, to report to the Vestry on his ministry. Neil submitted a written (Attachment 1) and oral report on his activities, addressing our current Church music programs and recommendations for our Church's future music agenda. The Rector noted that Neil has managed our music program for the last 18 months both as a volunteer and later joining our staff.

The Vestry expressed that they were very pleased with the direction and success of the music programs, especially the "Schola Cantorum" with its wonderful lead singers recruited by Neil from Riverview High School and the State College of Florida. Neil noted the "Friends of Music" have been very helpful in funding the "Schola" and that the performances at the 11:15 A.M. Sunday services have greatly increased attendance at that service. Numerous events have used the "Schola" also and are likewise well attended.

Vestry members also noted, with pleasure, the success of the "Sundays at Six" program series. The church choir, the Schola and the organ concerts (including the "All-Bach" concert) using professional instrumentalists, as well as the "Jazz" program, have added greatly to our music programs. These programs have all expanded our music ministry and excited our parishioners.

Neil also presented an exciting agenda for the coming year. He hopes to market us into the musical map of Sarasota. Neil wishes also to attract more academic establishments in order to recruit more Schola singers and generally continue the church's mission of sacred music to inspire our parish. Neil complimented all those he has worked with saying they have shown teamwork, cooperation, concentration, and tolerance, bringing together disparate groups and views, attitudes, abilities and voices in the process.

A **motion** was made and seconded to resolve to continue our support for Neil in his work as our Music Minister, and commending his work in advancing, very successfully, our church missions to reach out to new attendee's and inspire existing parishioners. The Vestry expressed its' intention to renew Neil's contract and supports his Visa extension. Neil was thanked for his excellent and professional efforts on behalf of St. Boniface. The motion was passed unanimously by the Vestry and Resolution thus approved.

Operating Budget 2010: The Treasurer distributed an Operating Budget for 2011. This budget, which is balanced, reflects a 3% increase in staff salaries, effective April 1, 2011, and reports a 5% increase in parishioner pledging. The Rector reminded the vestry that a budget can always be changed as circumstance require and that he has instituted a budget “wish list” as a mechanism for getting new projects included in subsequent budgets. A **motion** was made, seconded and adopted to accept the 2011 Operating Budget as presented (Attachment 2: Revision H.a dated 3/17/2011). The Rector called the vestry into executive session to discuss individual salaries and reminded the vestry that salary figures were “confidential but not secret”. Salary data can be made available to parishioners but only in circumstances where the vestry feels the need is legitimate. People who were not included in the executive session returned and the meeting continued.

Transition: Susan Rife, as head of the Steering Committee, reported that planning is complete for the All Church Conference, scheduled for March 18-19 and that 125 people have registered to attend.

The Senior Warden reported that that one candidate for Interim Rector had been interviewed and that an additional candidate will be interviewed next week. Jim indicated he would be contacting some members of the vestry to help with the interview process.

Rector’s Report: The Rector commented on a Fact Sheet (Attachment 3) that was compiled by the staff following the completion of the Saint Boniface parochial report and noted the significant difference in the average Sunday attendance (ASA) and the ASA “in season”. He reminded the vestry that all prospective candidates for Rector must fully appreciate this difference. The Rector also reported that he had begun a series of Farewell Events and that summer preaching schedule had been established by the Associate Rector. The Rector reminded the vestry that this would be his last “official” vestry meeting since April is a focus meeting. The Rector indicated he would recuse himself from the last item on the vestry agenda and turned the meeting over to the Senior Warden.

Gift for Ted: The Senior Warden reported that Ted had requested that St. Boniface not give him a cash gift upon retirement. Jim suggested we honor Ted’s twenty years of service to the Parish by establishing a formal “Boniface Speakers Fund” to continue to bring in the brightest and best in religion to the parish and the community. This would enable the Boniface Center Series, begun by Ted, to continue as a meaningful St. Boniface ministry.

A **motion** was made, seconded and adopted to establish the **St. Boniface Speakers Fund**, with the expressed purpose of continuing the Boniface Speakers Series; and to initiate this fund as a way to honor the ministry of the Rev. Canon Edward M. Copland, Rector 1991-2011. Additional funds can be provided by the bequests and special gifts from Parishioners, friends and families.

There being no further business, Andi adjourned the meeting at 6:40pm with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melba Hye-Knudsen, Clerk of the Vestry