

**Christ Church Episcopal  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2010**

*Approved 1/22/10*

**Vestry Members in Attendance:** Marc Halbritter, Sr. Warden, Joe Gallagher, Jr. Warden, Dave Wasik, Treasurer, Shelley Putney, Registrar, Dave Soule, Ted Susac, Amy Goodman, Mike Richards, Rick Elliott, Elaine Champion, Bill Beattie, Elizabeth Franklin, John Daylor, Jim Wheeler

**Staff in Attendance:** Paul Johnson, Rector, Hillary West, Assistant Rector, Kathy Nunn, Director of Parish Operations

**Others in Attendance:** Jeff Conklin, Harry Kelso, Harry Kelso, Jr., Chase Anderson, Jennifer Ernst, Darryl Ernst

**Special Guests – Cub Scouts:** Harry Kelso, Harry Kelso, Jr., and Chase Anderson provided an update on Cub Scout Pack 788.

- Christ Church is the chartering organization for Cub Scout Pack 788.
  - Harry, Jr. and Chase are members of the Webelos 1 Den of Pack 788, which is the grouping of boys in the fourth grade.
- They thanked Christ Church for sponsoring the pack.
- Their fall fund-raising efforts in 2009 resulted in \$24,000 in sales.
- Much of the profit the Cub Scout pack made, valued at several thousand dollars, was donated to the U.S. military to send them popcorn.
  - Harry, Jr. and Chase shared some popcorn with the Vestry, which was much appreciated!
- The pack received a Quality Unit award.
  - Harry, Jr. and Chase presented pins commemorating this accomplishment to Paul, Hillary and Dave Soule.
- Scout Sunday will be the first weekend in February.

**Special Guests – Sudan Update:** Jennifer and Darryl Ernst provided an update on Sudan.

- Christ Church's involvement with the people of Southern Sudan includes:
  - 1999: Christ Church hosted a refugee family from Sudan.
  - 2005: Several people from Christ Church went to Southern Sudan and met to discuss plans for a school.
  - 2005: Christ Church had our first Christmas Giving Tree for Sudan through which Hope for Humanity was able to fund 33 bicycles and 64 ox plows. The Christmas Giving Tree has continued annually since then.
  - 2007: A Christ Church team worked on building Hope and Resurrection Secondary School.
  - 2008: The school was dedicated in May.
  - 2009: A group including Christ Church members visited the school.

- Jennifer and Darryl shared with us videos and photographs from the November 2009 trip.
- Hope and Resurrection Secondary School now includes 89 students in grades 9 and 10. The students range in age from 15 to 39. The school is co-ed, with 13 girls.
  - The motto of the school is “With God all things are possible” [Mark 10:27].
- There are only 22 high schools in all of Southern Sudan.
- In July 2009, Sudan Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul appointed Jennifer to serve as the new coordinator for partnerships for the Episcopal Church of Sudan.
  - Jennifer’s responsibilities include looking for partnership opportunities to build relationships between the Episcopal Church of Sudan and churches in the United States.
- The people of Southern Sudan look to the church for basic social services since they are not provided by the government.
- The Vestry thanked Jennifer and Darryl for the wonderful work they are doing.

**Approval of December Minutes: There was a motion to approve the December 2009 Vestry Minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.**

**Rector’s Report – Paul**

- The Vestry continued a discussion begun in December about the ‘Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes’.
- The Consortium is hosting a conference from February 24-27, 2010 in Austin, Texas. We discussed whether we should send representatives to it.
  - Significant takeaways would be making connections with churches in similar situations as Christ Church.
  - We would also be able to tap into resources country-wide.
  - The Consortium, and the resources it would provide, would allow us to think through the implications of our resources.
  - We know of no other place to get the type of information that could be obtained via the Consortium.
- Our discussion led us to conclude that we should send representatives to the conference.
  - We agreed to investigate this opportunity further, with the wardens and officers to report back on the best ways to fund it.

**Financial – Dave Wasik, Kathy Nunn and Jeff Conklin**

December financials were not available for the meeting. We are in the process of closing the books and the financials were not ready since the Vestry meeting was held one week earlier than usual. Once available, the December financials will be distributed, discussed and voted upon electronically.

**Where We Are – 2009:**

- After a light October and November, preliminary December revenue was solid (~\$180K)

- Our estimate (books not closed yet) for 2009 is that we ran at about a \$15K deficit on a cash basis, and about a \$35K surplus after accounting for the \$50K transferred into 2009 (\$10K gift, \$40K Vestry designated).
- This suggests that we had a good year in 2009, all things considered, and would leave us with approximately \$180K, and possibly closer to \$200K, in unrestricted cash.

#### Where We Are – 2010:

- Pledges continue to be received. Our current 2010 pledge total stands at approximately \$950K. Note that our current baseline budget assumes we get more.
- Reasons to believe that we will receive more pledges:
  - We conducted targeted calling on the evening of January 11 to 50 families who pledged in 2009, are still active in the church, but have not pledged in 2010;
  - Last year we received \$30K in pledges after the annual meeting.
- We are forecasting \$935K in collected pledge income.
- We are assuming non-pledge income to be approximately flat to 2009.
- We are assuming a \$12K gift from the preschool, which is less than the \$17K from 2009 but more than the \$7K that has currently been offered.
- We are currently projecting a \$52K deficit after redesignating another \$40K.

#### Key Spending Assumptions:

- \$10K designated for employee raises – Paul and Kathy to allocate.
- Our staffing plan is stable – two clergy members, Associate Youth Minister starting January 1, Rebecca moving to full time, Missy moving to reduced full time.
- 10% of pledge revenue designated for Missions & Outreach, consistent with past years. This 10% includes funding for Youth mission trips. Youth has asked for \$9K to fund their mission trips.
- Diocesan pledge increased from \$50K to \$55K.
- Youth, Children's and Music have increased budgets from 2009, but less than what they requested.
- Buildings & Grounds and Utilities expenses are up to reflect the larger space.
- Nursery expenses are up to provide coverage for Sunday evening (DOCC, Equip) classes.

#### A discussion took place about ministry spend in the proposed 2010 budget.

- Amy Goodman compiled data on the budgets from 2007 through the 2010 proposed budget, revealing that we are spending less in aggregate on ministry activities. Specifically, ministry spending has declined from the 2007 budget to the proposed 2010 budget by \$45,045 or 19.9%.
- Factors contributing to this are our increased fixed costs, as well as the fact that congregational giving is also being directed to the building fund at this time.
- With the current level of pledges, the proposed 2010 budget will not cover what the ministries requested. We would need an additional \$40K.
  - The proposed budget does not allow us to live to our aspirations. A relatively small amount of money could be transformative to our ministries.

- We celebrate what we have been able to accomplish with the amount pledged, and the proposed 2010 budget is fiscally responsible. However, there is frustration with the constraints the budget imposes. We have additional significant opportunities. We will endeavor to address them through the call for increased giving and fund-raising.
- We need to make the congregation aware of the needs at the Annual Meeting.
- We will continue to review our financial situation each month. We would like to be in a position to do more in terms of ministry work.

**RESOLVED, that the proposed budget totaling \$1,214,885 be approved for 2010. This motion was seconded and carried after discussion.**

**Haiti – John Daylor**

- John provided an update on the earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010. We are in the process of learning details, but there is widespread devastation.
- Christ Church has forged relationships in Haiti. In 2009 we sent our first mission team to Haiti, specifically Canaan Orphanage. We do not know at this time how the orphanage was impacted by the earthquake. Our plan is to take our second mission trip to Haiti from March 16-23, 2010.
- We discussed how best to provide relief to our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

**RESOLVED, that the loose plate offering the weekend of January 16-17, 2010 be donated to Episcopal Relief and Development for Haitian relief purposes. This motion was seconded and carried.**

**Officer’s Report – Marc Halbritter and Joe Gallagher**

- 2009 Annual Report: Dave Soule, Amy Goodman and Jim Wheeler are drafting the 2009 Christ Church Annual Report. It will be finished in time for the Annual Meeting.
- Special Funding for 2010: Bill Beattie reported on the work of a Vestry subcommittee that has been formed to develop ideas for fund-raising activities that could provide for scholarship money, specific needs of the parish, and/or help cover any budget deficit. The subcommittee has begun its work and is developing a list of possibilities.
- Annual Meeting: Marc is creating an agenda for the Annual Meeting on January 31.
  - Dave Wasik proposed holding an informal discussion at 11:00 a.m. following the Annual Meeting for any parishioners who would like to discuss the finances in greater detail. It was agreed that this is a good idea. Dave will conduct the session.
- Election of 2010 Officers: A slate of officers for 2010 was presented to the Vestry for consideration.

**RESOLVED, that the following be elected as officers of Christ Church for 2010: Joe Gallagher – Sr. Warden, Bill Beattie – Jr. Warden, Jeff Conklin – Treasurer, Jim Wheeler – Registrar. This motion was seconded and carried.**

- Vestry candidates: Five Vestry candidates have emerged – Barry Hayes, Louanna Heuhsen, Will Watkins, Marilyn Wayland and Tricia Williams. They will be elected by acclamation at the Annual Meeting.
- Vestry liaisons: Joe Gallagher announced the following Vestry liaison ministry assignments for 2010:
  - Joe Gallagher                      Floating/HR
  - Bill Beattie                        BSC & Construction and Stewardship
  - Jim Wheeler                        Youth
  - Elaine Champion                Worship
  - Rick Elliott                        Missions/Outreach
  - Amy Goodman                    Adult Ministries
  - Mike Richards                    Children’s Ministries
  - John Daylor                        Floating
  - Elizabeth Franklin              Lay Pastoral Care
  - Melinda Hancock               Finance
  - Will Watkins                        Preschool
  - Marilyn Wayland                Newcomers
  - Louanna Heuhsen                Communications
  - Barry Hayes                        Buildings & Grounds
  - Tricia Williams                    Music/Audio Visual
- Vestry Retreat: This year’s Vestry retreat will be held at Elizabeth Franklin’s lake house. The date, length and theme are all undetermined at this time.
- Bank (check signing) resolution:

**RESOLVED, that the officers for 2010 be authorized to execute the documents required to allow all officers and Amy Goodman to sign checks on behalf of the church; PROVIDED, two signatures are to be required for all checks. This motion was seconded and carried.**

This meeting was the last meeting of the Vestry year, and the last Vestry meeting for the members of our senior class.

**RESOLVED, that great gratitude be offered to Ted Susac, Dave Soule, Shelley Putney, Dave Wasik and Marc Halbritter for the many good gifts each of them has brought to Christ Church during their three years of service on Vestry. We are forever thankful for their effective and loving service. This motion was seconded and carried.**

Following reflections from Vestry members, particularly the senior class on their years of service, and a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Wheeler