

Minutes from the Meeting of the Vestry
Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

7:00-9:00 PM

Attending: Jay Brown, Phil Jodz, Andrew Masterman, Caroline Manogue, Elizabeth McLean, Carolyn Morris, Carter Williams, the Rev. Peter Vanderveen, the Rev. David Romanik, the Rev. Jo Ann Jones and Jay Einspanier.

Absent: Susan Adeniyi-Jones, Andrea Cayley, Jan Clarke, Mackie MacLean, and Scott Stephan.

Recorder: Jo Ann Jones

The meeting of the Vestry was called to order and David Romanik opened with prayer.

Minutes: The Minutes of the September vestry meeting were approved as corrected.

Rector's Warden Report:

The September meeting was fruitful, leading to further discussion on Legacy into Promise. He noted that while attendance at services has been a bit light, the Church has been active in other areas. September was also a month with a high number of funerals. With anticipated relief in the weather in sight, this might encourage greater attendance at Sunday services.

Accounting Warden's Report:

The Operating Budget stands in good shape as of the end of September. Year to date we are 100% of Revenue and 96% of Budgeted Expense. In terms of revenue, pledges recovered are slightly over the prior month as of the end of the reporting period. With a few exceptions, revenues are trending above budget. For example, we received an early payment of \$73,000 in Endowment Income which was budgeted to be received in October (as a result of changed timing of payments at the Diocesan Offices). We also received \$3,800 in additional Miscellaneous Income for two weddings and room rent. As a result, at the end of the month we are \$83,000 over plan in Revenue. Expenses for the period are below budget by \$7,000 primarily for underspending in Clergy, Education, Buildings and Capital Repairs. Music reported a slight overspend due to emergency organ repairs. Peter described the events of the weekend of September 28-30 and the organ's loss of power and the herculean and professional efforts required to restore it in time for Sunday's services and wedding. A report from the organ maintenance company estimates that it will cost approximately \$33,000-\$38,000 to repair the console. Michael and Peter will evaluate the costs.

At year end, it is anticipated that we may experience a short fall of \$68,000 in pledges. This shortfall can be attributed to approximately 30 people who usually give, but have not done so to date. There will be follow up with them.

On the 2019 budget, it is assumed that pledging revenue will be flat, with a 2.5% increase in other revenue sources. While it is difficult to predict expenses for the 2019 budget year, we are anticipating a 2% increase in salaries and a 2.5% increase in other expenses. The next draft of the 2019 budget will be reviewed at the November meeting.

Liaison Reports

New Committee is trying to clarify the difference between greeters and newcomer greeters. There is an opportunity for the two functions to merge with the head of the Greeters stepping down. Caroline Manogue is hosting a Newcomer Fall Gathering on October 26 to welcome newcomers. David anecdotally noted that on the average 3 new, responsive people have been attending each Sunday and are coming to all three services.

Nominating Committee has held two meetings and is looking to fill the following positions: Vestry – 4. As of October 7 there were approximately 27-28 people to consider. The next meeting is October 14.

Christmas Bazaar is approaching. The Vestry Gift was mentioned: \$50 per person to purchase restaurant gift certificates. The Bazaar Committee is concerned about next year. While there can be a Friday night event, there will not be the same Saturday event. There is a need for new chairs to step forward. The members were encouraged to think about a replacement event for Saturday for 2019.

MEG is rebuilding, due to the loss of two members. Two earlier meetings had to be cancelled because of scheduling conflicts. It will need to reboot.

Committee on the Churchyard has not met. It needs to look at its goals and draft a charter.

Education Committee had no report.

Associate Rectors' Reports

In addition to his work with the New Committee, David has been in collaboration with other congregations. For example, he and Hilary Raining are preparing an Advent Quiet Day on December 15 at St. Christopher's. He has recruited a new member to the Healing Ministry Team.

Jo Ann reported on the reconfiguration of Youth Education for those in middle school and described the new curricula being used and the reorganization of the Outreach Committee. The new chair of the Outreach Committee is Patricia Fowler.

Rector's Report

Peter noted the difficulty in scheduling time to meet with the Lower Merion Police Department to address security issues, but added that the Department is well acquainted with the Church and it does possess building plans, which would be critical in response to an emergency situation.

The Clergy blog is up and there will be postings weekly.

Peter acknowledged the recent work Hollister has done with the News. The revision of the News format and the editing of the content is an ongoing process. Hollister will review the News for several weeks to help guide the changes. The Voice is also being reformatted, as a more template driven document.

As we move into the Fall Stewardship season, we will be working to communicate and clarify the difference and need for both annual giving pledges and campaign gifts . It will also be essential to insure that pledges are properly acknowledged.

Peter asked that the vestry reflect on what we are not doing that we ought to be doing. This feedback is very important.

Legacy into Promise

Peter gave high praise to the talented members of the Operating Committee. He observed that the team is cohesive, understands the process and how to work to achieve the goal of designing a building at a total cost of \$9 million.

A parish wide meeting to present the design work is scheduled for Sunday, October 28 at 5:00 PM.

The amount currently projected for short term borrowing at the end of the construction phase is \$2.5 million. In December the parish will make a presentation to the Diocese for its approval. The Campaign is still on track to potentially reach the goal of \$14 million in total pledges and gifts (\$9 million in construction costs and \$3 million for non-construction costs, and \$2 million in endowment). As of September 30 \$649,084 is needed to be raised. For 2018, projected collections are \$4 million and for 2019, \$1.4 million. In the last three months we have collected \$200,000 in the public participation phase.

New Service: A service of Evensong will occur the second Sunday of every month through the academic year. The first service will be Sunday, October 14 at 5:00 PM. The liturgical expression and participants will change month by month. We will retain the 11:15 service on those Sundays, though the choir will not be there.

The choir commissioned an anthem by Thomas LaVoy that will be premiered at the Remembrance of All Souls on Sunday, November 4.

Closing: It was properly moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Peter gave the closing prayer.