

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
December 10, 2017
Minutes

Present: Ruth Smith, *Sr. Warden*, Bill Bittenbender, *Jr. Warden*, Maitland Barnes, Bill Carney, Mike Chase, Maryann Darzano, Barbara Edwards, Geoff Gersen, Fallon Pearce, Dana Richardson, Jennifer Williams, Canon Jim Hanisian, *Priest-in-Charge*; Fr. TJ Tetzlaff, *Assistant Priest*

Newly elected 2018 Vestry members: Allen Feezor, Paul Miller, Henry Singley

Guest: Margaret Bearden

Absent: Marty Younts, Bob Fuchs, *Treasurer*

Ex Officio: Janet Fox, *Clerk*

Opening and Introductions. Canon Jim opened the meeting at 12:29 p.m. Each person present briefly introduced themselves.

Goodbyes and Welcomes. Canon Jim praised outgoing Vestry Members Mike Chase, Barbara Edwards and Marty Younts, noting that everyone owed them a great debt of gratitude for their leadership during a traumatic period, and demonstrating how the church works when it works best. He thanked outgoing Clerk, Janet Fox, and commented on how clear communication had been especially important during this time. He welcomed the three newly elected Vestry members – Allen Feezor, Paul Miller and Henry Singley, wished them well and said that every person in the congregation needs to find their ministry.

Odds and Ends. It was decided by the membership to keep regular Vestry meetings at 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each meeting. The next meeting, after the Vestry retreat, will be on January 16, 2018.

Vestry Agendas. Meetings will start and end on time. After an opening prayer and a brief devotion by a Vestry member, half of the remaining time will be spent assessing and discussing progress on the Vestry strategies. At present there are four strategies, each led by a Vestry member. They are: Stewardship, Bill Carney; Staffing, Dana Richardson; Building (Parish Hall), Bill Bittenbender; and Faith Formation, Maitland Barnes. All Vestry members are assigned to strategy teams, and the outgoing Vestry members will remain on their strategy teams. The other half of each meeting will be a time of visioning, with a particular topic chosen for each meeting. The main job of the Vestry is to be looking to the future of St. Philip's, while the ministry boards manage the day-to-day operations of the parish. Meetings end with an attitude check to assure that no members leave with questions or doubts about matters that have been discussed and decided. If such doubts arise, the topic is reopened for further deliberation.

Retreat. The Vestry retreat will begin at 4 p.m. Friday, January 5 and end at 4 p.m. Saturday, January 6. It will be held at Beach Cove in Myrtle Beach, and Friday dinner will be at the Chestnut Hill Restaurant. Cost, for those who chose to contribute to the retreat expense, is \$175 per person, based on single occupancy at the hotel.

Appointments. Barbara moved and Fallon seconded that Linda Humphreys be appointed chair of the Outreach Ministry Board, following the announced resignation of Jimbo Smith. The motion passed unanimously. Canon Jim stated that the term limit for board chairs is 10 years, because some people are meant to do that work, and it would be silly to rotate them off at some arbitrary time. There will be annual reports and reviews of each board.

Margaret Bearden was proposed to become Vestry Clerk, Barbara Edwards was proposed to be a member of the Mission Fund Management Team, and Mike Chase was proposed to continue as Assistant Treasurer of the Vestry. Bill Bittenbender moved and Fallon seconded that those three appointments be made. The motion passed unanimously.

Parish Hall Capital Campaign. Bill Bittenbender updated Vestry on progress: He is talking with a prospective buyer of the Carr-Jorgensen house, and will try to negotiate a first right of refusal agreement. If this sale works out, the house can be moved and the historic part of it will fit on the lot where the prospective buyer plans to move it. This buyer would also take on demolishing the addition to the house, along with the proposed move. Bill has also been in negotiation with the architect of the new parish hall, John Urban, and has had a survey of the property done. The architect will present more than one plan. The Diocese will also have to approve the sale and partial demolition of the Carr-Jorgensen house. Once all these transactions have been completed, we will be able to start the capital campaign.

Meanwhile, Bill requested that Vestry pass a resolution to authorize him to continue these negotiations, to provide for transparency and avoid any misunderstanding. This resolution was passed unanimously:

The St. Philip's Vestry affirms that William Bittenbender, Junior Warden, is authorized to continue negotiations for disposal of the Carr-Jorgensen House, after Diocesan approval. He is further authorized to continue negotiations with Urban Architects regarding Phase 1 of its proposal dated October 5, 2017, limited to available funds in our Capital Campaign of \$32,500.00. He will provide regular reports to both the Finance & Facilities board and the Vestry.

Other Business. Ruth stated that Bob Stenhouse had not intended for his name to be proposed for the Mission Fund Management Team at the November Vestry meeting. He saw that clearly as a conflict of interest with his position as chair of the Finance & Facilities Ministry Board.

In response to a question as to whether there were written conflict-of-interest guidelines, Canon Jim said there had been a discussion about having a written form/policy; and such might be considered in future. In the meantime, Vestry members were expected to use their own best judgment in any potential instances, avoiding any conflicts and/or declaring any such potential areas before they arise in the course of Vestry business.

Adjournment. At 1:30 p.m. the public portion of the meeting ended and Vestry went into executive session.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Fox, Clerk