

# **VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS CHRIST CHURCH DETROIT MAY 27, 2010**

**PRESENT:** The Rev. John Talk, Claire Brown, David Chivas, Oliver Coleman, Tom Cragg, Susan Diehl, David Jackson, Aretha Marshall, Marilyn Shahly, Jan Weir, Ben Wilbert

**NOT PRESENT:** George Ellenwood, John Leney, Seth Lloyd, Eileen MacDonald, Kevin Maher

**GUEST:** The Rev. Cn. Lisa Gray

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, June 17, 2010  
Supper: Marilyn Shahly

Table discussion at supper was centered on the vestry retreat of Saturday, May 8, 2010 when Chris Yaw of St. David's in Southfield explained the convergence format for congregational organization. According to church canons the vestry is responsible for the administration, finances and maintaining and/or improving the buildings and grounds of their congregation. Congregations organized on the convergence format divide vestry members into commissions responsible for those three functions. Commissions meet once a month and bring reports and action items to vestry. Other committees and organizations in the congregation form a parish council that would meet three or four times a year. Reactions to this organizational format were generally favorable and included the following:

- With commissions reporting in writing to vestry members prior to the meeting less time would be spent on "business" and more time could be spent on determining, planning and carrying out our mission.
- This kind of reorganization might result in a better use of our human resource.
- Susan attended the vestry meeting at St. David's and reported that the business portion of the meeting was indeed only an hour long and that commission reports and action items were no more than a page and a half long. An hour was then left for brainstorming and discussion.

Reducing the size of the vestry was also discussed. John reported that studies by the Alban Institute indicate that smaller boards help churches solve problems and determine goals in a more timely manner than large boards.

Further discussion about the retreat and other organization models will be held at Lily's Seafood in Royal Oak on Thursday, June 3, 2010 at 6:30.

The Rev. John Talk opened the meeting with prayer at 6:30 pm.

## **MINUTES AND FINANCE REPORT**

Both the minutes and finance report were approved as distributed.

## **WOODBRIIDGE PARKING LOT – FENCE –**

The fence between Christ Church property and our neighbor the Garan Luow law firm has been broken for some time due to ground erosion from our property. In order to remediate this condition three bids have been received that will include the following scope of work:

1. Removing of the old fence and debris
2. Grading the current slope
3. Installing movable barriers to hold back the slope
4. Project management and permits

**Motion:** Recommend the Vestry authorize the Building and Grounds Committee, or in its place, The Finance Committee, to select a contractor for the parking lot slope remediation at a price not to exceed \$11,000. **Motion approved.**

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

We have yet to find a chair or co-chairs for buildings and grounds. However, John talked to Steve Berlage who is the president of Turner Construction of Michigan. He has consented to act as a consultant to help us determine what we need. Some of those things that we need to do are:

- Consolidate our knowledge about the building into an operations manual
- Determine a process for writing specifications for bids and obtaining and reviewing bids
- Prepare a priority list for major projects
- Prepare a maintenance schedule
- Determine a process for reviewing vendors
- Consider hiring a handyman for preventive maintenance

John reported that during the recent rains that we have a significant leak where the St. Michael's window meets the new construction. Members have also noticed what they think is a leak at the peak of the nave. These are in addition to the problems noted by Pomaville at the April meeting. Detroit Cornice and Slate has also looked at our roofs and is preparing a report. Verbally we have conflicting opinions regarding the problems and the solutions. Further bids will be obtained before making a decision on roof repairs.

Susan reported that she will look into applying for a diocesan grant for these repairs.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

John reported that the Reconstructionist Congregation wants to return to Christ Church. The place for their worship center is still to be determined.

## **PRESENTATION – The Rev. Cn. Lisa Gray**

The rector asked Lisa Gray to present some ideas regarding self discovery and change that had been covered in a week long session with clergy this spring. She managed to give us a great overview of the topic and introduced us to books and methods to expand on the information given and the suggested process in an amazingly short period of time. Especially important seemed to be the difference between adaptive and technical change. Adaptive change is mission focused and more successful since it is purpose driven change and involves as many as possible in the decision making process. Technical change, however, is less successful since it tends to be change by fiat and is more likely to be resisted by members.

We thanked Canon Gray for her presence with us and are happy to know that she can be a valuable resource for us in the future as we discern our mission and contemplate the changes that we might have to make to insure Christ Church Detroit presence in the community for the next 100 years.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet B. Weir