

December 18, 2019 7:30 P.M. Vestry Meeting Minutes

Present at the meeting: Patty Alexander, Carl Adams, Joanne Comstock, Frenchie Gogos, Sue Carroll, Donna Alvarez, Kiska Williams, Cliff White and Chuck Cash by phone.

Sue will be time keeper, and Carl will be the evaluator. Next time Joanne will be prayer leader. This evening Carl led us in prayer, and Patty led us in a discussion of Luke 16:10-12. This evening's agenda was approved, and the previous minutes were reviewed. A correction was needed under Stewardship (11/21/19), and Donna sent an amended copy to Kim Matthews.

### Rector's Report

Patty updated us on her personal situation and thanked the parish for support. Patty will leave on Friday because of the passing of her father-in law, and Kim will be on vacation from Saturday through Dec. 30. Under upcoming events, the Saturday caroling has been canceled. The Christmas Eve service starts at 6:30P.M. with a concert, and the Christmas day eucharist is at 10:00A.M. There are 8 tickets (see Kim for first come, first served) available for the Jan. 26 Revival with the Presiding Bishop. Seminarian, Robin Reed, has January off and will be back Feb. 2. Her hours this semester are increased from 12 hours per week to 24 hours per week. Under Evangelism and Church Growth, a MissionInsite summary was circulated with instructions to review it by the January meeting. Vestrymen may want to target a particular area of interest. Under the topic of Children's Ministry, it is worrisome not to have a paid Children's Formation leader. Parents of young children do not seem to be interested in a cooperative leadership scenario, and we can't compete without a designated person to do children's ministry. The question, which has budget implications, is how can we invest in children's ministry and grow the church? Under the topic of fundraisers, a chair is needed for the spring fundraiser for the operating budget. We need a new sound system; the estimated cost is \$1,755.89. Joey has proposed a benefit concert for couples on Valentine's Day. At this point, several ideas were thrown out. Sue said maybe music lovers will contribute a one-time gift, apart from a fundraiser. Another idea is our spring fundraiser will be for the sound system, and this will be good exposure for Joey. (He is planning another Jazz Mass for Mardi Gras.) Cliff suggested asking for a gift to support the sound system with the idea of better sound at the spring fundraiser. Chuck suggested that if everyone chips in \$10 for the sound system, it will bring the parish together. Patty sees this as an opportunity for participation. Sue asked if the new sound system could be considered a capital expense. Patty says that the endowment fund is a good safety net, but if Joey can speak to the congregation in January, people can contribute. The Vestry agreed (no vote) that Joey be invited to speak in January. Patty circulated a Vestry meeting schedule for 2020. There was a favorable response. On the timing of the Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 23 after church was given approval.

### Warden's Report

The topic was the nominating committee for the 2020 Vestry election. Kiska, Mark and Joel are outgoing, and Donna stays on as Registrar. We need three people for the class of 2023 and one for the class of 2022. We should publish the list of proposed candidates one week prior to the Jan. 12 meeting after church. Carl will do this.

#### Buildings and Grounds Report by Chuck

Greensweep came but did not have the best advice. Rupert Landscaping came and seemed better. Chuck, Carl and John will meet with them and put together a proposal. The gutters were cleaned before the Celebration of New Ministry. Ali was the videographer at the Celebration and will give us the edited films. He is leaving the area, and Patty would like him to come to church so we can pray him out.

#### Treasurer's Report by Cliff

Cliff supplied several detailed handouts. The budget is off by \$16,000 partially offset by a \$10,000 gift. Pledge statements went out to people who haven't fulfilled their pledges. Building and Grounds fund needs to be replenished. It was a good year for Endowment Fund; it increased from \$298,000 to \$342,000. \$12,500 went for Outreach, up 15% from the previous year. We may want to use Endowment funds for Buildings and Grounds, since a considerable portion of the shortfall in that category was actually for capital expenses.

In a discussion of the 2020 pledge campaign results to date, it was noted that fifteen previous pledgers are unresponsive. It is important to note that \$50,000 in missing pledge money is from 4 pledgers. There are 3 new pledgers. We need more revenue; there are not any expenses to cut.

Carl asks, how much to fund a new Christian formation person. Patty says at least \$10,000, maybe more. The question arises, should we use the endowment for a Christian formation person? Cliff emphasized that the endowment fund should not be used for ongoing operating costs, but that it could be tapped as an investment into a particular project. Some people say we should use the endowment fund for a program to attract young families. Patty says we need a lot of smaller pledges so we won't be vulnerable to large pledges disappearing. We need to identify people who can work to get money for formation. We need to invite people to church; we're insular and need a broader base. People look for a children's program—not necessarily the old Sunday School model. Carl asks how much do we need for a children's program, and Patty says she will do the research to find out. All agree we need to be transparent, which includes posting Vestry Minutes. Patty says we need a unified vision to be presented in a meeting. Don't post the shortfall first; present the results of the Stewardship Campaign as part of a vision for the future including a plan to attract young families through children's ministry. Sue will draft a plan for message and sequencing. We also agreed to have a "Town Hall" meeting on January 12 to discuss the campaign results and our proposal for moving forward with the congregation as a whole.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35P.M. with a prayer. The next meeting is January 27.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Alvarez