

Grace Episcopal Church
Regular Vestry Meeting
Monday, February 15, 2010

Members present: Jon Augspurger, Heidi Barnhill, Mary Ann Germanson, Terry Gibson, Kenn JeSchonek, Al McCoy, Mitch Nakaue, Judy Rose, Carole Trone, Stephen Webster.

Members absent: Michael Leland.

Officers present: Jason Loch (Clerk), Sparky Watts (Treasurer)

Clergy present: The Rev. Jonathan Grieser, the Rev. Patricia Size, the Rev. Carol Smith.

- (1) Steve Webster (Senior Warden) called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Fr. Grieser led the Vestry in devotions.
- (2) Steve Webster presented the Agenda. There being no additions, Judy Rose (Junior Warden) moved adoption of the agenda. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.
- (3) Terry Gibson moved approval of the January minutes. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.
- (4) Jon Augspurger moved the appointment of Jason Loch (Clerk) and Sparky Watts (Treasurer). The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.
- (5) Sparky Watts (Treasurer) presented the January financial statements. He warned against false optimism based on January's bottom line. He drew the Vestry's attention to expenditure for an ad promoting local Episcopal churches. He also said that the Baxter stock would be sold soon and alerted the Vestry to certain expenses relating to the sale. Sparky also informed the Vestry that the Vanguard fund was down due to the generally poor economic climate. Terry Gibson moved the acceptance of the January financial report. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously. Steve Webster told the Vestry that our parish counsel and financial administrator were examining our financial policies to make sure they are in conformity with the guidelines issued by the national church. He also told the Vestry that the finance committee had been asked to consider the issue of social investing and, after consideration, the committee concluded that there are not any reliable indicators of socially responsible investing. The committee concluded that the sort of broad-based mutual funds we invest in would make it difficult to invest in accordance with principles of social justice. Al McCoy disagreed with this conclusion and asked that social investing be further reviewed.
- (6) Steve Webster presented a summary of the conclusions reached at the January Vestry retreat. The first parts of the document consisted of a vision statement along with an assessment of our current strengths and weaknesses. The final section was a set of Vestry goals for 2010. All these

things taken in conjunction would help form a new mission statement. Steve said our goal for tonight was to decide whether or not any of these items should be changed. Carole Trone asked about the presence of two identical items in both the 'threat' and 'opportunity' categories. Fr. Grieser spoke about the 21st century church attendee: they are less committed to a particular denomination and less likely to come to church on a Sunday morning. He also discussed the role of national press in both building up and tearing down our reputation as an Episcopal church. Terry Gibson said that he thought we should make sure that this remained a living, breathing document and should avoid getting trapped in a paralysis of analysis. He urged the Vestry to move ahead without too much deliberation and analysis. Steve asked if the Vestry felt comfortable showing this document to the congregation and there was general consensus that that would be a good idea. Fr. Grieser suggested that he could talk about it in the context of the sermon. Discussion ensued about the number of people who read the emailed Grace Notes. Steve Webster suggested that Vestry members should survey parishioners' attitude toward the electronic Grace Notes. Steve asked the Vestry if they were comfortable with the document as it is. There was general consensus that it was. Marry Ann Germanson asked whether the phrase 'poorly functioning committees' might be offensive and Steve said he would change it. Carole Trone said that part of the problem was that we had a small cadre of volunteers and many of them might be serving on multiple committees. Pat Size reminded the Vestry that modern parishioners sometimes went to multiple churches to meet different spiritual needs. Steve said that he would add a few extra points to the document and then submit it to the parish with some sort of mechanism for collecting suggestions. He also said that he hoped to get the document out before the next Vestry meeting. Jon Augspurger asked what we will do after we ask for input. Heidi said that, in her opinion, it was more of an informational document than anything else and Steve clarified that the request for suggestions was simply a way of making sure that we had taken stock of parishioner feelings. Kenn JeSchonek said that he felt that most committees were reactive rather than proactive and this document can help provide much-needed guidance. Steve said that he felt that the Vestry's primary goal should be setting strategy. Carol Smith pointed out that relations with other Episcopal churches are not an example of ecumenism and it was decided to amend the wording. Judy Rose pointed out that the word 'canvas' should be 'canvass.'

- (7) Carole Trone presented a report from the IT committee. Reviewing our IT needs has long been a priority of the parish and this document constituted a needs assessment for the parish. Our current system is patched together. There is a variety of different computers and software in use and the system could benefit from being standardized. The report suggests that we should have a server, a network upgrade, and a corporate license for our software. It also suggests that there should be a regular replacement cycle for personal computers and a better firewall and internet access. There was some

concern that open source software might not be the way for us to go. The phone system was said to be serviceable, but it has its peculiarities. The report suggested that we should purchase commercial solutions to ensure continued maintenance. Sparky Watts asked about the various stages referred to in the document and Carole said that she thought it referred to when we would actually implement the changes. Sparky Watts suggested that the goals should be prioritized and priced. Steve Webster expressed his appreciation of the thorough nature of the report. Carole reminded the Vestry that the quality of the materials we purchase will have an effect on morale and productivity. Jon Augspurger asked about the cost of the server and Carole said that that included the base price of a new server and yearly costs for new equipment and software. But there would probably be money left over each year that we could save for a rainy day. Sparky Watts expressed the hope that we will find volunteers within the parish to help with technical maintenance. Mitch Nakaue asked about whether we could just purchase several laptops and move them around as needed and Carole said that could be a possibility, but she thought the report envisioned the use of desktops. Jon Augspurger asked whether or not we need computers in the classrooms and Steve said that he thought there was a strong case for doing so. Carole asked if we should start figuring out sources of funding and there was general agreement that she should do so.

- (8) Fr. Grieser presented a grant proposal that had been approved by the diocese regarding the Hispanic ministry. Fr. Grieser presented a history of the ministry. Ministry has received funding from the diocese from 2003 onward, but the relationship between the ministry, Grace, and the diocese has remained unclear. Grace never funded the ministry prior to 2009. Pat Size does not report to the rector, but it is also unclear if she reports to the bishop. Membership in the Hispanic ministry never showed up in our parochial report prior to 2008. Yet all of the ministry's funding has come through Grace. The Vestry agreed to support the ministry financially to make up for the decrease in diocesan funding. Fr. Grieser presented some financial information about the diocese's support of Hispanic ministries through the diocese as well as some demographic information. Steve Webster drew the Vestry's attention to the application for mission and development aid, which promised that we would come up with a proposal to incorporate Hispanic ministry congregants with the rest of the parish. Steve reminded the Vestry that this grant was a transitional measure and continued funding would most likely be dependent on our progress. He also said that this would most likely be a recurrent item on the Vestry agenda.
- (9) Terry Gibson presented an update from the personnel committee. He asked for someone to join the committee. Progress had been made on a performance review process. Efforts were also being made to provide a position description for every staff member. Discussion ensued about the night watchman. Heidi Barnhill presented a report from the outreach committee. She moved that the outreach/mission committee be made a standing committee. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

Judy Rose presented an update regarding the church directory. Sparky Watts asked about the accuracy and Fr. Grieser said it would be available prior to publication so corrections could be made. Fr. Grieser told the Vestry that the dishwasher needs to be replaced and the buildings and grounds committee was considering the issue. No decisions had been made yet regarding possible sources of funding. Kenn JeSchonek said that he believed that the dishwasher was important as the roof and should therefore be a matter for the Grace Fund. Steve clarified that a decision to replace was not necessarily the only option and had not been decided upon.

- (10) Judy Rose told the Vestry about the work of the Diocesan Standing Committee. The Committee would be asked to consent to the election of a lesbian priest as Bishop of Los Angeles, but the Committee had decided to table further discussion of the matter. The Standing Committee must approve the election by a majority vote. Steve Webster asked the Vestry to pray for the members of the Standing Committee. Steve Webster told the Vestry that the pantry board would like to apply for a supplemental grant to pay for upgrades, but he did not wish to sign without Vestry approval. Judy Rose moved that Steve be authorized to sign the grant application on behalf of the Vestry. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.
- (11) Judy Rose moved that the Vestry do adjourn. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Loch
Clerk of the Vestry