

Grace Episcopal Church

Regular Vestry Meeting

Monday, May 17, 2010

Members present: Jon Augspurger, Heidi Barnhill, Mary Ann Germanson, Kenn JeSchonek, Michael Leland, Mitch Nakaue, Judy Rose, Stephen Webster.

Members absent: Terry Gibson, Al McCoy, Carole Trone.

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

Clergy present: Fr. Jonathan Grieser, The Rev. Pat Size, The Rev. Carol Smith.

Also present: Peggy Worzalla

- (1) Steve Webster called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. He welcomed Peggy Worzalla from the diocese. Fr. Jonathan led the Vestry in devotions. Judy Rose moved the adoption of the agenda. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously. Kenn JeSchonek moved the adoption of the April Vestry minutes. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.
- (2) Fr. Jonathan told the Vestry that, as part of his letter of agreement, there had been a commitment to regular Mutual Ministry reviews. Accordingly, Peggy Worzalla was at the meeting tonight to discuss the matter with the Vestry. Peggy said that she would not be discussing ministry development for the Hispanic Mission tonight; that matter was being tabled for the time being. Her remarks would concentrate on the Mutual Ministry review for the parish. In her prefatory remarks, she said that we would be focusing on how to strengthen our parish and develop the leadership skills of both laity and clergy. The review would also help us to think about how we are providing spiritual nourishment for the parish. She passed out a worksheet for Vestry members and explained how to fill it in. This would be a valuable data-gathering exercise that could help the Vestry plan for the future. Kenn asked about the role of the Personnel Committee specifically with regard to Part III pertaining to Jonathan's review and there was general agreement that it was unclear. Steve Webster adjourned the meeting at 7:42 for a refreshment break in order to enjoy cake made by Judy Rose in honor of Peggy's birthday.
- (3) Steve Webster reconvened the meeting at 7:53 pm. Sparky Watts presented the Treasurer's Report. He said that, despite the recent stock market hiccup, our investments were still doing okay. Judy Rose moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.
- (4) Sparky Watts presented an update regarding socially responsible investing. The Finance Committee had been charged with considering the Vestry's request for Finance Committee discussion and endorsement of SRI and report back. A lengthy discussion ensued in Committee and no decision was reached due to the lack of quorum by the time the discussion was concluded. Sparky said that there were some members of the Finance Committee who were fundamentally opposed to SRI. Others were opposed because we lack the resources to pick individual stocks thus requiring us to use, e.g., Vanguard's SRI fund. Sparky read off a list of the ten largest holdings in that fund and he told the Vestry that he was not particularly impressed with their performance. Steve said that, in his opinion, it would be almost impossible for us to decide on an

agreed set of values for the whole parish. He said that he did not think there was any opposition to SRI per se, but rather there was concern about the mechanisms available to facilitate SRI. Because we do not invest in individual stocks, it could be difficult for us to move forward with SRI. Fr. Jonathan said that he was originally of the opinion that it could be a good idea to put some money in the Vanguard SRI fund, but, looking at the firms in the fund, he was no longer as enthusiastic. He proposed that we could be proactive and take a small percentage of our investment and put it into community development. Kenn reiterated that much of the Finance Committee's opposition was due to the inherent complexity of SRI.

- (5) Steve Webster presented the results of the Visioning Exercise. Because many Vestry members had not had a chance to look over it, he asked the Vestry to come up with a plan to go forward with it. Judy expressed concern that the Visioning Exercise, Vestry Workplan, and Mutual Ministry Review might end up being very similar. Steve said he would redistribute the SWOT and the Visioning Exercise and invite comments first from Vestry and then from parishioners. Based on that feedback, the Vestry would proceed in August. Steve presented an update regarding the Vestry workplan.
- (6) The following committee representatives presented updates: Fr. Jonathan (Personnel), Judy (Communications), Heidi (Outreach), Jon (Buildings and Grounds), and Steve (Nominating).
- (7) Judy updated the Vestry on the progress on the new sound system. Fr. Jonathan told the Vestry that Kara Pagano's discernment process had been put on hold because of her recent health issues. Steve encouraged Vestry members to volunteer to watch the church during open Saturdays. Steve said that the wardens of Madison area parishes were planning an all-Vestries picnic.
- (8) Michael Leland moved that the Wardens, Treasurer, and the Parish Counsel be empowered to enter into negotiations to act as financial partners with Fr. Jonathan in purchasing a house.. Any agreement they draw up would have to be agreed to by the Vestry. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.
- (9) Judy moved that the adjournment at 9:02 pm. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Loch
Clerk of the Vestry