

Vestry Meeting September 19, 2011

Members present: Kenn Je Schonek, Heidi Barnhill, Linda Newman, Michael Leland, Bruce Croushore, Nelson Flynn, Jason Loch, Mary Ann Germanson, Ginny Shannon, Paul Lorenz

Guest: Mary Ray Worley

Members absent: Fr. Jonathan Grieser, Terry Gibson, Steve Webster

Mary Ann Germanson served as clerk in Carolyn Hackler's stead. Bruce, who presided, thanked Mary Ann.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Devotional given by Linda Newman

Agenda was adopted and **minutes** accepted by motion by Jason Loch, seconded by Ginny Shannon, carried.

Nelson Flynn gave his **Treasurer's report**, which was bleak due to the market activity and lower than expected pledge donations. The aspects of church operations that will suffer the most through this downhill turn are our Outreach Activities. There were many who chimed in to say that this was the crux of our mission here at Grace and we need to maintain our involvement. Some discussion followed after Mary Ann reminded the vestry that with Jane Henning leaving her post as gardener coordinator and benefactor, we need to find funds to replace the Henning's generosity. (As a sideline: Mary Ray said the Hispanic Ministry may donate money to the garden, but she will need to discuss this with them first.) Nelson told the vestry that the Grace Foundation will fund the acoustical improvements in the church. He also forwarded a request from Stan Henning to spend \$8000 to repair the Guild Hall windows which open to the alley. Bruce gave a reminder to make sure we honor our pledges in a timely manner and encourage others to do so if they have forgotten.

Report was accepted by a motion from Michael, seconded by Jason, carried.

Diocesan Delegate Appointment: Bruce asked for one more volunteer to attend the convention on October 14-15, no one was free. The people who will attend are Judy Rose, Pat Pollock and Stan Henning. Jason made a motion to appoint these delegates, seconded by Ginny and was carried.

Personnel report: Michael reported that a new night watchman was hired, Aaron Wade, who has a history working in and securing churches, for a one year term. Since Aaron is a first-year law student, his role could possibly extend to three years. The performance reviews of the Financial Administrator and Sexton are almost completed.

Communications: No report

Outreach: Linda reported that the committee met Sept. 13th, with Mary Ann Cook acting as chair for the committee. They will continue to meet on the second Tuesdays of the month. There was interest in joining the Bread for the World Campaign. Much of their discussion revolved around the fact that two places for daytime respite for the homeless, the capitol basement and the central library will be off limits as the weather turns cold. Rather than opening up our Guild Hall for this, the suggestion was made to support the existing program at Bethel Lutheran Church, which is all set and in place. We will need to collaborate on staffing issues and need to recruit help. A side note is that Fr. Jonathan and other downtown clergy have met with the mayor concerning this issue.

Building and Grounds: Paul reported that we are waiting for a response from Mullen (?) Construction Company for their advice on the roof above the chapel side of the nave. The committee does not believe that there is anything critical to do prior to winter. Once again, Stan Henning would like \$8000 for Guild Hall window repairs. Bruce explained why the ceiling fans are not on in the heat of summer: hot air rises and it would be pushed down, making us even more uncomfortable than we already are. Paul also reported that Fr. Jonathan has information on the air conditioning proposal for the church.

Nominations: Mary Ann reported that the committee met with one member missing due to vacation, created a list of possibilities and arrived at a full slate of people willing to serve. With two vestry slots opening, we have 5 or 6 running, one running for warden, and Linda Newman graciously accepting to serve on the board of St. Francis House. The vestry gladly accepted her service and approved her appointment. She will be in contact with Fr. Jonathan concerning meetings.

Executive Committee: Bruce reported that the contract for the new sound system was signed and the hope is for it to be in place by November 1st. He also reiterated that the Grace Foundation is funding this, with hopes that ECW may also contribute to the expense. There will be a switch to a new insurance company, Church Mutual, by October 1st. Bruce has been involved in these negotiations and has gotten a plan for the church will be a bit less expensive, but will cover \$5 million more. The Grace Foundation and its trustees will be named insureds under the Church Mutual policy at no additional premium. Bruce intends to brief the personnel committee on September 27th, on steps to be taken to mitigate risk. Bruce also reported that Tom Zilavy, Grace counsel, has drafted a lease with Porchlight, which contains a request for roughly twice the amount of their current lease, due to utilities cost in the shelter.

Task Force and Other Committees

Grace Presents: Bruce passed out posters for the next season of concerts, with the first one taking place on Thursday, September 22nd at noon. This will be the first weekday noon concert and we are trying to advertise this throughout the downtown community. There was discussion about how to advertise through social media and internet sites. There will be a free will offering, as these concerts are funded in part through a grant from the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission.

Pastoral Care: Linda reported that Darby Puglielli is chairing this group, which desires to be a committee serving the vestry. Members included Darby, Linda, Margaret Irwin, Steve Webster and Carol Smith. The prayer list was discussed and it was underscored that if you place a person up for prayers, they should have given you permission for that.

Stewardship: Kenn reported that the typical mailing will be held until after the initial presentation at church, in an attempt to save mailing costs. Ann Flynn is working hard on this project and will be hearing more soon, through bulletin inserts. Members asked if Ann could brief the vestry on the status and timetable of this year's stewardship effort.

Other business: Thanks for all who were involved with the **Ministry Fair**, and all who volunteered for new duties. New people were evident and we hope that they will become involved.

Jason reported that the **LGBT Youth Fellowship of Madison** made more contacts through a UW Madison function and that people were glad to find this organization, after being ostracized for being different. They will kick off the new season with a pizza party in the Humanities Building on the UW campus.

Meeting was closed after a prayer from Ginny Shannon, adjourning at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ann Germanson