

# St. James' Vestry Meeting Minutes

## Thursday, April 12, 2007

In attendance: Ralph Locher, Tim Young, Sylvia Ma, E.J. Hilliard, Meg Williams, Jan Brandt, Scott Whitaker, Janet Fischer, Greg Miller, Linda Nelsen, Sylvia Sweeney, Barbara Dabney, Bob Honeychurch Pegeen Perry, and Elizabeth Hart.

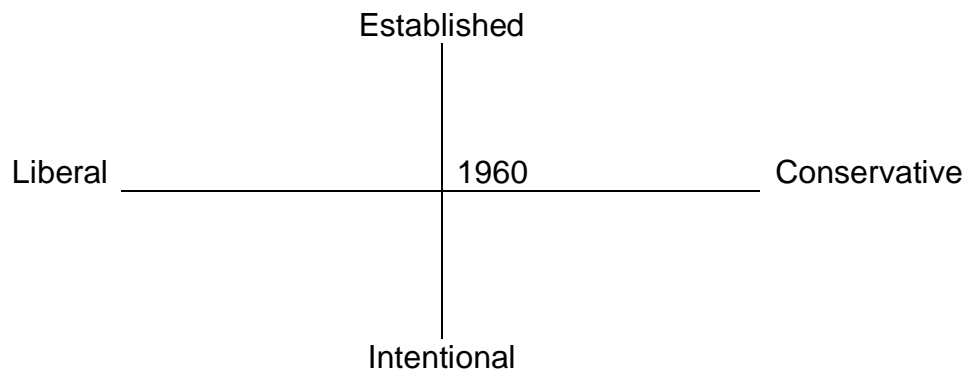
Bob Honeychurch called the meeting to order.

Sylvia Sweeney led the opening prayer and the study, based on Sunday's gospel lesson, John 20:10-31. The discussion centered on physical evidence that one might use in deciding whether St. James' is dead or alive. The consensus was that St. James' is basically healthy, but we need to be intentional in paying attention to areas where there is discomfort (dis-"ease") present.

Reflections on the Diana Butler Bass Conference – led by Meg Williams and Pegeen Perry

- This conference was a replacement for the annual vestry day
- Dr. Butler Bass has published a number of books, including **Christianity for the Rest of Us**. Her website is [www.dianabutlerbass.com](http://www.dianabutlerbass.com).
- Unlike popular media opinion, many mainline Protestant churches are surviving and flourishing.
- These churches had to change to grow, and had to be intentional on what they were there for, and intentional on the path they wished to take
- The changes were unique to each church, and each church had to be willing to let go of some things.

Continuums



Third continuum, the modern / postmodern continuum, is represented by a line through the center and perpendicular to the above two lines, making the diagram three dimensional.

(Note: there is no right or wrong, good or bad, just different in terms of these continuums)

Mindset continuum – liberal / conservative in terms of spirituality and church

Liberal

- Scripture is more analogy, more interpretation
- Ambiguity, more choices

Conservative

- Literal interpretation of scripture
- Hanging on to traditional values, black and white

Established / Intentional continuum

Established

- God as king, authority figure
- Don't make eye contact with clergy
- Address the clergy by title
- Clergy only spaces
- Accept it
- Be quiet in church
- Style inherited from our parents
- Classical hymns
- World wide culture: repressed, introverted
- Religion? Sex? Politics? Shhhh!

Intentional (after 1960)

- God as love
- Clergy by name
- Stand or kneel, more "social" in church
- Contemporary music
- Communal spaces
- Attending by choice, not habit
- Worldwide culture: expressive, extroverted
- Population growth and move ... take the important things

Modern / Postmodern continuum

Modern

- 1600-1950
- One answer to every question, black or white

Postmodern

- More than one answer for every question

- Room for discussion, dissention.

Those who fall in the “established, modern” area of the continuum will be fading away over time. It is in our best interest to be respectful, loving, caring, giving and accepting of those individuals, and to listen to the stories they tell, for they can play a positive role in this transition.

Where does St. James’ sit in the continuum?

There is a tendency in our community to try to make everyone happy – is this sending mixed messages? Catering to multiple denominators? We need to know where our energies lie.

Vestry meeting minutes

- The March 8, 2007 vestry minutes were approved as presented.
- Thanks to Meg Williams for serving as scribe.

Treasurer’s report – attached

- The final report for the special interest funds for February is on pink paper.
- This year we are \$10,612 behind in pledges; last year we were \$6000 ahead of budget. However, the first two weeks of April we had an income of \$19,000
- The columbarium and memorial garden funds (both special interest funds) have not been combined because the history of those funds would be lost
- Other operating income includes payment from groups using facilities, interest income, etc.
- The building principal/interest was listed incorrectly for most of 2006 – according to lender it should be \$14,516.41. Loan should be complete October 2007 rather than December. However, we don’t have all the paperwork regarding the loan so don’t celebrate yet.
- Morgan Stanley account – building fund account. It requires a \$10,000 minimum balance. We have had to pay \$354 in fees for dropping below \$10,000. We also pay an annual fee and incur brokerage fees.
- Would like to open a Schwab account – minimum is \$2500, and there are no annual fees.

Motion was made to transfer the Morgan Stanley building fund account to a new Schwab account and close the Morgan Stanley account. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.

- DW Scudder account – special interest money account. Difficult to use this account. Need to change signature cards (R. Leslie and A. Kelsey are still listed for signatures). Suggest moving this account to an account (separate from above account) at Schwab.

Motion was made to transfer the DW Scudder special interest fund account to a new Schwab account (separate from the building account) and close the DW Scudder account. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.

- There are two accounts for the deacon's discretionary account. Suggested the accounts be combined.

Motion was made to combine the Gallagher and Cosby discretionary funds accounts and name it Cosby discretionary. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.

- Lead Team will have to give a written report regarding the Deaf Ministry before any discussion regarding the funds.
- Special interest account 2630-75 playground – Have asked the money to be released to finish up the playground.

Motion was made to release money in the playground fund to in order to finish playground. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.

- For the Walka-Rocka-Thon, please make checks payable to St. James'.

Social Ministries Committee status

- Going to be meeting with Bob Honeychurch, Mike Aquino, and others.
- Long range scheduling of events
- Adding some deeper intentionality

Music position status

- Worship/Christian formation and Communication/Evangelism working together to get position posted – start date of July 1.
- Don Westfall will serve as substitute organist up to that date.

Motion was made to approve up to \$500 in advertising expenses out of the musician line item in the budget to cover advertising the music position. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.

Deanery representatives

- We have lost two representatives, both of whom were alternates to the convention, delegates to the Deanery – Mary Mitchell and Svend LaRose.
- May need to appoint representatives at a later time.

Motion was made to extend the meeting to 9:15. Moved and seconded. Motion passed.

Thanks to all who worked hard for the Bishop's visitation.

Cluster reports

Worship and Christian formation

- As submitted
- Working with Janet Fischer to find a new librarian
- Next Tuesday begins the new Faith & Science series

#### Parish Life and Facilities

- Need to keep an eye on the Canterbury room – it is starting to be used as a storage/dumping ground
- Bob Honeychurch will be meeting with the remaining members of the cluster to help them move forward.

#### Social Ministries and Congregational Care

- The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Walka-Rocka-Thon is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- May 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Clements in Berkeley is the 5<sup>th</sup> annual appreciation tea to honor those doing outreach programming.

#### Communications and Evangelism

- There is no systems archive for the new St. James' list. This means it is up to individuals to save (or backup) any sent or received emails using the St. James' list.

#### Lead Team

- There is a master calendar meeting on Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm. Will need information from the ministries in each cluster regarding events for the year.
- Need to find a replacement for Kerri Williams, who has resigned from the vestry. If you know of someone who would be good for this position, let the Lead Team know.

The closing worship was led by Janet Fischer.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hart  
Clerk of the Vestry