

Vestry Meeting: June 14, 2007

In attendance: Tim Young, Sylvia Ma, Janet Fischer, EJ Hilliard, Greg Miller, Jim McConnell, Jan Brandt, Meg Williams, Barbara Dabney, Sylvia Sweeney, Bob Honeychurch. Absent: Scott Whitaker, Ralph Locher, Elizabeth Hart

Barbara Dabney called meeting to order.

Bible study led by Bob Honeychurch. Listened to the story from the perspective of Jesus, the Harlot, and the Pharisee. Asked to consider what question we could ask each of the others, and how we would answer, from the viewpoints of the “character” we’d been assigned.

Bob Honeychurch announces to the vestry that a group from the Diocese of Nevada is conducting a Bishop’s search, he is on their candidate list, and they will be visiting in July. Their election is in mid-October. They are conducting on-site interviews with all the nominees. Bob asks that we keep the process in our prayers. The NV group would like to meet with all vestry members (not clergy) who are available to meet, after the 11am service on July 15, from about 12:30-1:30pm. Bob’s status as a candidate is now considered public knowledge.

Request for corrections to May’s vestry meeting minutes: No edits to report. Report accepted.

Comment made to include in future reports of not only who is attending, but who is absent.

Copy of Parochial Report for 2006 distributed. This is of public record, and those who wish to see/have a copy are asked to see Gigi in the parish office. The report is reviewed and acknowledged.

New vestry member report: Greg Miller reports that of the 7 initial candidates from the list generated by the vestry and pared down by the lead team, we have 5 confirmed “no’s” and 2 whose decisions are still pending.

Music Ministry Candidate Search Update: We are in possession of 7 qualified candidates for one or both of the positions of Music Director and Organist. Valle Brokes has been asked to chair the Search/Interview committee. She will pull a small group to screen applications and conduct interviews. A second round of interviews with the clergy (for liturgical-based questioning) will follow. It is possible that the committee will build feedback by asking the nominees to play for the congregation or other group gathering. It has been asked that there is some information as to how the applicants found the job opportunities (Organists Guild, Craigslist, etc.).

Financial Reports presented by Jan Brandt:

- Letter and email went out regarding pledged accounts.
- Morgan Stanley account closed and transferred to a Charles Schwab account
- Mortgage and LOC are down, and mortgage may be paid down by October!
- Sewer loan also working its way down
- Unpledged contributions include approximately \$1000 from Ducks for Bucks fundraiser.
- Cumulative fundraising's dollars will go into June's numbers.
- Jan is available to answer questions and pull up history of Special Interest accounts for those curious for more information.
- Does Jan foresee that with the pledged monies down at the moment, that we will be able to pay the bills through the summer? Best estimates say yes, she says. Barbara Dabney reminds us that the lead team has a bank-balance-trigger-number, and if we hit that, that further steps may need to be put into action, but we appear to be alright at the moment.
- Jan reports that we always need to be mindful of our resources and expenses.
- Auditor was here all day Monday 6/11/07. Reviewed files for 2006. It was discovered that Sylvia Sweeney does not have a written contract on file, and that the vestry needs to address that.
 - Many thanks to Jan Brandt from the vestry, for the many hours of work put in to collect data for the auditor.

Endowment board report submitted and received by vestry. Motion called by Jim McConnell to appoint Dave Nelsen as new Endowment Board member. Seconded by Greg Miller. Motion passes.

The Endowment Board has given the vestry approx. \$1100 to put toward an outreach program that the vestry deems worthy. Lead team recommendation is that it be given to the newly expanded Music Ministry. (Music Ministry is termed "new" in that we will have a Music Director in addition to an Organist.)

General discussion:

- Would money primarily be for salary or materials?
- Concern voiced that we should not be spending unbudgeted money on salaries if we don't have the money in the first place. Also mentioned that we do that all the time, when we've passed deficit budgets.
- The positions of Music Director and Organist could be a dual position held by one person, or 2 separate people. Additional budget money was placed in this years budget for the expanded ministry.
- 2007 budgeted expenses versus 2007 budgeted salaries is a key point. A new operating fund line could be created, and the money might not be added to the salary line.
- Significant changes and enhanced worship are part of the direction the new music program can support.
- The directives by the Endowment Board did not specify that it could or could not be used for salary.

- What will the Ministry include exactly, so that we can tell it where it may be used most effectively? It was then suggested that people re-read the lengthy job descriptions, which went out for the two positions, to get a handle on the various expected tasks and responsibilities.

Debate and vote on where this money should go is tabled for further discussion. Either (1) send the funds to the Music Ministry with specificity as to whether it goes to (a) Salary, (b) Programs, or (c) Where Needed, or (2) send the donated Endowment Board money to a different destination entirely.

Cluster Reports

Social Ministries / Congregational Care: Verbal report by Barbara Dabney for Scott Whitaker. A meeting set for June 24 for the Social Ministries group, to move that group forward. Once that group is formed, it will be added to the recently-created general “ministries” brochure.

Communications/Evangelism: As submitted.

Reminder to all vestry to help your ministry leaders get the word out about events. All are invited to use the email list, the Window, the bulletins, post flyers. Encourage them to use the Window for events 2, 3 or even 4 months out, to “save the date.”

* Reminder from Barbara to get reports out sooner before the vestry meetings.

Facilities / Parish Life: As submitted

Worship / Christian Formation: As submitted

Calendaring

- July 1 services will feature outdoor Independence Day services for 9 and 11.
- Summer Book Club being held in July. Announcements to start 6/24.
- Diocesan Resolutions: EJ reports:
 - The deadline for submission of resolutions is 5 p.m., July 16, 2007.
 - The Resolutions Committee must review resolutions prior to the August 1, 2007 deadline for inclusion in the pre-convention packet that is distributed at Fall Deanery meetings. Resolutions received thereafter will not be included in the pre-convention packet, but may be considered at Convention if they are submitted by August 21, 2007.
 - All submissions must include:
 - Name, address, phone, e-mail of person proposing the resolution (cleric or lay delegate eligible to vote at Convention), or,

Congregation, etc. or officially recognized diocesan organization proposing with contact information for the representative of the group authorized to respond to questions and accept amendments.

- Resolutions and any questions may be e-mailed to: rector@saintjohnsf.org or mailed to: The Episcopal Church of St John the Evangelist, c/o Diocesan Resolutions Committee, 1661 Fifteenth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Visioning

Unable to complete during meeting. Will work on this dialog / brainstorming via email over the coming month until the next vestry meeting.

Vestry members are asked to review the goals at a cluster level: what can be done by our cluster to meet these goals as selected by the vestry earlier in the year:

- New member welcoming
- New music program
- Social Ministries Coordination
- All-church service on a regular basis
- Big church bathrooms
- Broader fundraising base
- Building a stronger base for communal discernment
- Increase leadership opportunities for people of color

Closing prayer led by EJ Hilliard. Meeting adjourned 8:50pm.

Next meeting: July 12.

Amendment to minutes, 7/6/07: Approval has been made in principle to move forward on a remodel of the Big Church's bathrooms.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Williams