



Minutes of the Vestry

January 21, 2008

Present: Heather Albrecht, Richard Beadle, Mike DeFillipi, Betsy Creedon, David Dieter, Lisa Flores, Stuart Grigg, Scott Hanoian, Susan Heinen, Monte Jahnke, Susan Larsen, Joe Maycock, Theresa Muzzi, Pat O'Brien, Jeff Stallings, George Sutton, Don Sweeny, Al Torp, John Van Osdol, Pat Wenzel, Brad Whitaker

Guest: George Nicholson

I. Opening Prayer

Monte Jahnke said the opening prayer.
Brad shared a meditation.

II. Opening Matters

Announcements: Brad expressed his gratitude for the support of those who were involved with the Higbie and Cunningham funerals

- The Annual Meeting is Sunday.
- Kit Tennyson and Hadley French will work on the election process, the nominating process and the timing of the Annual Meeting. They plan to start by working with Gerhard on the counting process. Please let them know if you are interested in joining their group.
- Submit ministry/committee interests to Brad for the coming year.
- Returning members, please select a book you would be interested in reading from the Alban Institute catalog.
- Oasis Ministry of the Diocese is a ministry for the transgender/bisexual/lesbian and gay persons of the Diocese of Michigan. They produced a flyer that lists those churches that have identified themselves as welcoming and affirming congregations. Discussion will take place at the February retreat to determine if CC should add our name to their list.

Jeff Stallings would like veteran vestry to be sensitive to the new vestry joining because as a new person coming on one can have an overwhelming feeling with all the expectations and an unfamiliarity with the financial reports.

Wardens' Comments: Monte Jahnke reminded vestry that if you wish to stay informed about CC to visit the church's web site.

- Follow up correspondence will be going out on missing pledges.

Betsy Creedon mentioned that the staff luncheon was fabulous and expressed her thanks to Susan, Don, George, Al and Monte and the chefs for helping out.

- Still waiting on eight evaluations.

Pastoral Concerns: David Dieter reminded vestry that St. John's Hospital will no longer give out patient information to our Pastoral Care Coordinator. Please inform us if you are aware of someone who is in the hospital and would like a clergy visit.

- Keep in your prayers the Albrechts, Doreen Taylor, and Charles Trowbridge who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Correspondence. No report.

III. Approval of the Minutes of December 17, 2007

Pat Wenzel mentioned that Stuart Grigg raised some issues about the budget and that we don't normally report on the surplus on a monthly basis, which is true, however she wanted to clarify that we don't look at the balance sheet which is where the surplus is reported.

Final bullet point at the bottom of page 2 and the top of page 3, where the words contractual or contracts appear should be replaced with the word *pledge*.

References to the expenditures on the Columbarium and the clergy housing improvements - those were endowed monies. Therefore, the top of page 3 should read *which are not included in our operating budget but were endowed*.

Last indented bullet on page 2 should reflect that the dollar amount spent on the Columbarium was approximately \$180,000 not \$500,000.

The December 2007 minutes were approved subject to corrections.

IV. Parish Ministries Reports

Parish Resource Ministries – Investment Policy: The Investment Policy submitted to the vestry last month contains a few changes in the wording for clarification.

Jeff Stallings moved that the Vestry of Christ Church Grosse Pointe accept the Investment Policy as presented. John Van Osdol seconded the motion; all approved.

George Sutton mentioned that the windows for the basement, second and third floors of the rectory are done; before Christmas and on January 10th the main floor was done and the trim work still needs to be completed.

- Buildings and Grounds will meet on January 24 to discuss clergy housing.
- On February 9, for the leadership training, Wendy Niven will do an ACS overview presentation.

Parish Christian Formation Ministries: Jeff Stallings reported that Brad and Lisa met with Sunday school teachers to bring them up to date in regard to children and youth ministries.

- Middle and high school youth met and had some very good discussion concerning the qualities they would like to see in the new person coming in.

Brad reminded vestry about the Mardi Gras party and the Lenten program coming up and ending with the Sweeny Lecture Series presenting Diane Rehm.

Parish Outreach Ministries: Susan Heinen reported that the blood drive was last week. There were 30 donors and 27 pints of blood were collected.

- Bound Together East is going well. More volunteers are needed.

David Dieter informed vestry that another New Orleans trip is being planned April 19-26.

- Libby Candler is the chair of the Outreach Funding Committee.

Parish Life Ministries: Pat O'Brien reported that the plans for the Mardi Gras party are well underway.

- Soup supper is scheduled for the Lenten series except for the final one with Diane Rehm. More information regarding signing up to bring a soup to pass will be published.

V. New Business

Buildings & Grounds – Excess Equipment & Furnishings: George distributed a handout (Attachment A) which lists a lot of items that are stored around the Church. The list identifies some items that B & G would like approval to dispose of via by gift or selling or some other way. George reviewed the list for the vestry and a motion is expected to be made at the February meeting.

A request was made to 100 parishioners asking those that can and are willing to give \$100 to cover the deficit. Dick Beadle made this same appeal to the vestry.

John Van Osdol reported that there are currently 84 pledgers who pledged in 2007 and have not pledged in 2008. If they pledged what they did last year, CC would have an additional \$109,713 in pledges. We are currently \$69,000 short of our goal. Christ Church First met last week and they decided to write a letter reminding this group that CC has not received their pledge. Vestry members are asked to select six people to call. It is important that you speak with them personally (not leave a message); a script will be provided.

VI. Old Business

Treasurer's Report – 2008 Budget: Pat Wenzel presented the 2008 Budget Development (Attachment B) which shows a \$6,364 deficit. The only change made by the Finance Committee was to include the additional pledges which was from the 100 for 100, a similar program David Jones started with the Finance committee and CC has already raised an additional \$8,450 in additional pledges of which we have collected over \$7,000. In addition, the committee spent a lot of time discussing the diocesan apportionment, which has increased by \$18,000, and decided not to reduce the amount.

- In 2006 there was a surplus of \$87,463. In 2007 we are projecting a deficit of \$11,155.
- Outstanding pledges (those who pledged in 2007 but have not yet pledged in 2008) total \$130,623, and of that amount about \$21,000 will not be collected for various reasons (deceased, etc.).
- Pat reviewed the 2008 Budget Assumptions (Attachment C).

Stuart Grigg questioned whether CC should calculate what the diocesan apportionment might be for 2009 based on the three year average so we know what the challenge might be in August.

Stuart Grigg moved that the Vestry of Christ Church Grosse Pointe approve the 2008 budget as submitted. Mike DeFillipi seconded the motion; all approved.

John Van Osdol expressed concern that Christ Church First presented a \$14,000 deficit to people and we have received \$8,000 in pledges, while CC has approximately \$70,000 in reserve. In trying to respond to John's concerns, Brad questioned what can we do with this money to promote growth (not only in numbers but spiritually) in the next few years?

Pat continued on to review the Special & Endowment Fund report that was distributed to the vestry.

Joe Maycock referred to the Investment Policy. There is an Exhibit B at the end which shows how you compute the expendable amount of each fund. Theresa is working on the revision because there was an error in it.

Brad thanked George Nicholson, Pat Wenzel, the staff, the vestry and the Finance Committee for their work on the budget. He continued to thank the vestry rotating off for their leadership, work, truthfulness and love.

VII. Vestry Reflections on Parish Programs, Ministries, etc. (off the record)

VIII. Closing Prayer

Brad Whitaker said the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Yntema-Gruner
Recording Secretary

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