



Minutes of the Vestry

September 21, 2009

Present: Peggy Beadle, Libby Candler, Denise Crenshaw, Lisa Flores, Ted Hagan, Scott Hanoian, Joe Katulic, Susan Larsen, Mark Lorenger, Joe Maycock, David McCoy, Theresa Muzzi, Pat O'Brien, Carrie Sutton, Amie Sweeney, Don Sweeny, Al Torp, Jeff vonSchwarz, Brad Whitaker

I. Opening Prayer

Al Torp opened the meeting with a prayer.

II. Parishioners' Comments

III. Opening Matters

Announcements: David Dieter is not feeling well and will not be attending the meeting this evening. Therefore, the topics under New Business for Outreach will be moved to the October meeting.

- Brad distributed the VPOD responsibilities. Please remember to check in with Lisa during Sunday school.
- Start off of Sunday school went really well; we are fully staffed. Twelve adults are committed to working with the youth.
- Brad is on the alumni board of the General Theological Seminary and leaves tomorrow for NY; on the weekend he will be in Virginia celebrating a wedding for his godson.

Wardens' Comment: No report.

Correspondence: Susan Larsen mentioned the need to respond to the Diocese regarding our apportionment. Brad will send a letter.

IV. Approval of the Minutes for August 17, 2009

Changes made under the first bullet: change the word "requesting" to *recommending* so it will read *No. 1 is recommending...*; the word "to" should be placed after the word Church so it will read *Church to help finance...*; in the last line after the word "until" insert *the entire amount of the write off which is approximately four million dollars is paid back*. The minutes were approved with corrections.

V. New Business

Outreach: Gleaners Bread Sale; Fundraising for BTE & WSU: Moved to the October meeting.

Moving Forward Update: Libby Candler reported that the Moving Forward Committee started with four realities: the Mission Statement, the Vision, the priorities set forth by the vestry in 2009, and the charge from Brad - *To present a specific set of initiatives reflecting the goals adopted by the Vestry (October 2008) and the values of the parish that will move our parish forward as we seek to recycle ourselves into a growth*

phase. Libby gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing the work the committee has accomplished and the recommendations it has set forth for the ministries at Christ Church. There are some recurring themes that appear throughout the presentation: articulating our faith, being a welcoming parish, money, prepare a booklet that is informative to new members about CC, setting term limits for committees so newcomers can be included, increase volunteers, etc. Certain areas are doing well – Liturgy and Music and Pastoral Care. There are areas that deserve the same attention that Liturgy and Music are currently receiving - Christian Formation and New Member Incorporation. Recommendations for the ministries was distributed – Attachment A. In everything we do we need to be a more welcoming and inclusive parish.

Libby Candler moved that the Vestry of Christ Church Grosse Pointe accept the report submitted by the Moving Forward Committee. Peggy Beadle seconded the motion; all approved.

Brad thanked Libby and the entire committee for their commitment and time devoted to this committee.

Stewardship Campaign for Vestry & Leadership: David McCoy distributed and read a draft of a letter that will be mailed to the vestry and the lay leadership of the parish. The stewardship theme for the year is *The Gift of Giving*. On November 2, the committee will send out three different letters - to non-pledgers, those in a certain pledging dollar category, and to the top 20% givers of the parish.

- CCF is requesting vestry and lay leaders to increase their pledge by 20%
- Goal for 2010 is \$1.2 million.
- CCF calendar:
 - October 12, inspirational message will start in Sunday bulletin
 - October 14, devotional guide mailed and it will also be on the web site
 - October 18, sermon on stewardship by Brad; a rolling PowerPoint presentation will be placed in the lobby that will show pictures of the parish, such as baptisms, the choir, etc.
 - October 25, stewardship forum on time, talent and treasure
 - November 2, pledge cards mailed
 - November 8 and 15, *The Gift of Giving* lay sermon
 - November 22, Commitment Sunday
 - Week of December 2, reminder follow-up letters mailed
 - January 5, 6, 7, etc., reminder follow-up letters to non-pledgers

VI. Old Business

Treasurer's Report: Jean Redfield reviewed the treasurer's report that was distributed.

- In current giving CC has year-to-date actual of \$725,000 of a budget of \$744,000
- In expenses CC is slightly behind budget on everything; however, a number are likely to reverse out
- Total expenses are \$70,000 less than expected
- Surplus may drop to \$4,000 or \$5,000

Update on 2010 budget: basically on the expense side the committee is going to assume similar cost containment. They are anticipating increases in benefit costs. They want to consider some modest increases to base pay for some of the staff who have gone a number of years without pay increases. CC did not meet its apportionment in 2009 so we might want to make an effort to closing the gap on what was committed last year. Regarding our outreach tithe, we are still trying to improve our progress of a full 10% tithe. Finally, it is CC's priority to add a full-time staff person, as well as program dollars for children and youth ministries.

Finance Committee Recommendation re: Bequests: There was discussion about the allocation of restricted funds.

The Vestry of Christ Church resolved, that the written Recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the treatment of unrestricted bequests to the Church discussed at the meeting of the vestry held on August 17, 2009, is adopted as a policy of the vestry. A copy of the Recommendation shall be attached to the minutes of this meeting as Exhibit A. The vestry approved this resolution.

Don Sweeny would like it communicated to the parish that they do have the option of making a bequest restricted or unrestricted.

Vestry Vacancy: Carrie Sutton's last vestry meeting is in October. Joe Maycock received names from vestry of very qualified CC members to fill Carrie's vacancy. Joe made a recommendation to the vestry to have Paula Labadie fill the vacancy. Paula is a physician assistant at St. John's, she is an usher at CC and very dedicated to Gifts and Greens and Outreach.

Joe Maycock moved that the Vestry of Christ Church Grosse Pointe appoint Paula Labadie to fill Carrie Sutton's vacancy starting in November 2009. Libby Candler seconded the motion; all approved.

VII. Parish Ministries Reports

Parish Resources Ministries: Libby Candler reported that the Estate Sale will not take place in October. Gifts and Acquisitions is looking at a date in February.

Parish Christian Formation Ministries: Denise Crenshaw mentioned that MOPS had their first meeting today.

- Penny Soby is doing great things with the Cloister Bookshop.
- Bible Study will be held Wednesday mornings in October, 10:30-11:45.
- Denise invited the Christian Formation leadership to her home for dinner next week.

Lisa Flores reported that an adult formation brochure has been placed in vestry mailboxes.

- There are approximately 100 children and youth registered for Sunday school.
- Children do have a stewardship card this year called *Time, Talent and Treasure*. Money the children give will go toward Heifer Project International.

Parish Outreach Ministries – Crossroads, Oct. 25, Vestry: Mark Lorenger informed vestry that October 25 is CC's next Crossroads Soup Kitchen day. In the spring, there was discussion of having the vestry take a day at Crossroads. There are two shifts – morning and afternoon. Contact Ted Hagan to sign up. In addition, a suggestion was made that the loose change placed in the plate that day be donated to Crossroads.

- Gifts and Greens is December 4, 5, 6. The preview party is December 4. They raise between \$15,000 and \$16,000 a year for outreach. The committee is making a recommendation to Outreach Funding that Habitat Grosse Pointe Partners and St. Peter's Home for Boys be designated recipients of monies raised this year.

Parish Life Ministries: Al Torp reported that the Fall Tea went well.

- Tuesdays Together starts September 22.
- Newcomers' class starts September 27.

Parish Liturgy and Worship Ministries: Pat O'Brien reported that Celtic celebrations are scheduled for this program year along with evensong and concerts on Sunday afternoons.

Parish Pastoral Care Ministries: We have several Stephen ministers. If you know of someone who needs their assistance, please inform the leaders.

VIII. General Comments

Brad thanked those who participated in the clean-up of the church grounds this past weekend.

- Vestry will receive an email about the stained glass window restoration project.
- Buildings and Grounds is looking into having services, such as weddings and funerals, recorded from a video camera.

IX. Closing Prayer

Carrie Sutton said the closing prayer after which time the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

X. Executive Session

After a short recess the rector and vestry went into an executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Yntema-Gruner
Recording Secretary

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