

"Perfect Love Casts Out Fear"

Christ Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2017

7:00 p.m.

New Brick

Members Present: Fr. Earl Mullins, Sonni Aribiah, Glenda Sanchez, George Toth, J.B. Hanson, Duane Smith, Michael Humkey, Shari Underwood, Dione Mahoney, Jan Deboissiere, Preethi Jackson, Ron Couch, Paula Rees

Members Absent: Steve Alpern, Terry Hurford

The evening begins at 6:45 pm in New Brick with Vestry member check-ins. In the spirit of fellowship, various anecdotes and personal vignettes were exchanged by those around the table. Fr. Mullins led the Vestry in prayer followed by a dinner provided by Shari and Sonni.

Sonni led the group in a meditation based on readings from a book called "He Walks Among Us." Afterwards, Fr. Mullins offered an opening prayer.

Minutes (attached):

Motion- To accept the minutes of the May 2017 Vestry meeting was seconded and approved unanimously with no abstentions.

Corrections: None.

Treasurer's Report (attached):

We know that large maintenance repairs loom ahead and we've started a NB roof Reserve and PH Roof Reserve to help structure for better long term maintenance funding. However, we continue to need to use our cash reserve, which hinders our ability to fund the maintenance reserves!

Motion-To accept the May Treasurer's report for audit was seconded and approved unanimously with no abstentions.

Correspondence:

- None

Review of Items Presently Before the Vestry

- 2015 Financial Audit (Terry) – No update. Tabled until next meeting.
- Parish Loan Update (Terry & Sonni) – Sonni provided an update on the pursuit of a Mittendorf loan. He and Chris Shematek have been working towards putting together several loan options. The Mittendorf will be problematic because the review process is initiated in January of each year. If we decide to forgo waiting until January of 2018 to submit paperwork for the Mittendorf, we can instead pursue a loan from M&T Bank. Since we have immediate needs that must be funded, a loan package from M&T Bank has been requested. The Vestry asked a few poignant questions and a brief discussion was held. One option discussed was the possibility of getting a loan from M&T now and paying it off with the Mittendorf, which will presumably have better terms, later. Sonni and Chris will continue to gather information and formulate questions.

Motion-To ascertain whether or not we are in compliance with the by-laws regarding this loan activity and if needed, acquire a quote for a third loan option was seconded and approved unanimously with no abstentions.

- Discernment Committee Update (Jan) – The deadline has passed for applications and review of each is underway. Currently, the pool of applicants is 16. The committee and Vestry are very encouraged by the level of interest in our church. Next month, Fr. Earl will be talking about the role of the Vestry once the committee concludes its work and submits the 3-5 names for consideration.
- Buildings and Grounds Committee Update (Glenda) – Glenda reviewed and the Vestry discussed, a spreadsheet, compiled by George, detailing all of the tasks that need to be completed to get the Rectory in livable condition in time for the arrival of the new Rector. Some work can be performed by volunteers and some should be performed by professionals. The Vestry discussed a path forward to get any relevant changes and work plans approved by the Owen Brown village association. Fr. Earl also remarked about how accepting parishioners seemed at the Buildings and Grounds Committee presentation last Sunday. A capital campaign will be planned to fund high priority Buildings and Grounds needs.

- Outreach Committee Update (Dione) – Dione reviewed the highlights of the recent Outreach Committee Meeting. The committee will be helping to provide a number of lice kits for students in need at the Maree G. Farring Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore. They will also be organizing a “Captain Underpants Sunday (July 16th)” to bring in new underwear and gently used pants for preschoolers at the school.

The Vestry adjourned for dessert at 8:50 pm.

The Vestry returned from dessert at 8:55 pm.

- Spiritual Life Commission Update (Sonni) – A report on the recent Spiritual Life Commission activities was made. The theme for the year will be “The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength.”

New Business:

- Additional Committees – none
- Sonni raised the question about when the Capital Campaign should be held. Nothing was decided.
- Old Brick Threshold – George asked about the status of the replacement threshold for Old Brick. Sonni is coordinating the effort with the historical society.
- Jan asked about what the youth program would look like once Patrick and Stacy Frith retire this fall. Brenda and Terry Hurford will be taking their place. There will be a formal announcement and celebration marking the transfer. Fr. Earl and Jan will meet with the Hurford’s and Frith’s to discuss the transfer soon.
- Michael asked about the status of the effort to replace the Sexton. Fr. Earl recommended that we delay hiring a new Sexton until the new Rector arrives.
- Ron raised the issue that the pool of Acolytes and Crucifers has been dwindling over this year and that the coordinator, Alexia Couch, is having difficulty filling the positions week to week. Since last fall, approximately 9 kids have withdrawn from this ministry. Fr. Earl indicated that he would contact and work with Alexia to discuss and implement creative solutions to this problem.
- Duane reported that Vacation Bible School (VBS) is now fully staffed.
- Glenda provided some developmental feedback she received regarding recent weekly bulletins. Fr. Earl acknowledged the issue and encouraged Vestry members to ask staff to bring feedback directly to him. His intent is to create a culture where parishioners feel comfortable expressing feedback of all types to church leadership.

- Paula Rees reported on her activities regarding bereavement ministries at Christ Church.
- George informed the Vestry that our previous Christ Church Link Director, Ronnie Miller, has secured a new counseling job.
- Fr. Earl discussed problems related to the phone system in the Parish Hall. The current system is ad-hoc, outdated and needs to be replaced. Nothing was decided.

Ministry Coordinator's Report (attached):

- The Vestry carefully considered and reviewed, but did not discuss, the Ministry Coordinator's report.

Wardens Reports

- No report this month.

Interim Rector's Report:

- No report this month.

Executive Session:

There was no Executive Session this month.

Wrap Up:

Fr. Earl asked each Vestry Member to comment on their thoughts about tonight's meeting.

- Glenda thought the meeting was very informative.
- Preethi was concerned about the issue regarding missing names from the weekly bulletin.
- J.B. was glad to see how well the Vestry works as a group.
- Michael reflected on his first few months as a Vestry member and how pleased he has been with the level of mutual respect around the table.
- Paula commented on the level of respect in the room.
- George shared three words: open, constructive, comprehensive.
- Duane remarked about the balance.
- Ron reiterated J.B.'s remarks.
- Jan's favorite moment was when George got a little worked up about the status of the Rectory basement. She was glad to see how much he cares about the success of this project.

- Shari was inspired by everyone's dedication and the progress made by this body.
- Dione was grateful for everyone sharing their expertise.
- Sonni really loved the food.
- Fr. Earl feels that it is an honor and privilege to serve at this church. He believes that this organization has enormous potential and is doing great things in the community.

Next Meeting: July 25, 2017

- **Dinner:** - Paula and Steve
- **Meditation:** - Jan
 - **Information Table:** June – Preethi Jackson
July – Dione Mahoney
August – Ron Couch

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM with a Prayer led by Fr. Earl.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Couch,
Registrar

