

Vestry Meeting Minutes February 24, 2007

Present at the meeting were Chris Burpo, Chris Couch, Steve Cunningham, Fr. Todd Dill, Andy Eberhard, Gail Greene, Charlie Gwynn, Rob Hungerford, Connie De Santo, Jim Landers, Roger Mathis, Bill Sleeper, Jill Sutton and Fr. Paul Winton. Teddi McIntosh was absent

1. Fr. Paul called the meeting to order and opened with a discussion about how Vestry meetings should be conducted, as well as comments on his work style. One goal of the conclave was for the vestry members to become better acquainted, and we believe that was accomplished. Fr. Paul outlined management style, as it relates to the Vestry and management of the church:
 - a. "Hands-off" management style.
 - b. Projects are better if they involve short term goals.
 - c. Criticism is best when delivered gently and with good intention. We don't have to agree all the time, but we have to be kind.
 - d. Fr. Paul usually handles all personnel matters. We need to continue to appreciate the lay staff, and treat them with respect.
 - e. He will let us know when the Vestry has a voice on an issue, and when it doesn't. "The Episcopal Church is not a democracy; it is an ecclesiology."
 - f. Fr. Paul shares more with the Vestry than most rectors do. This requires a great deal of confidentiality. Nothing we learn in Vestry meeting should be shared.
 - g. Fr. Paul likes to keep his personal life private. He believes in clear boundaries between work and personal life.
 - h. Reporting relationships: The vestry and rector work together and report to the parish of St. David's. Neither party formally reports to the other. The vestry does not hire, and cannot terminate, the rector. The vestry does have a fiduciary duty to the church. This duty extends to the rector as well.
2. Suggestions for conducting Vestry meetings better:
 - a. Delivery of documents and agenda items more in advance of the meeting.
 - b. Conduct *some* ministry updates in person rather than by written report.
 - c. At any given meeting, the vestry and clergy could identify ministries and issues which are important, so that preparation, analysis, discussion, etc. can take place prior to the next meeting. It will make subsequent meetings more effective.
 - d. In the near future, we also need to work on the issues that the vestry identified and discussed at the conclave.
 - e. The suggestion was also made that we occasionally hold meetings in peoples' homes, and perhaps have local "half day" retreats.
 - f. The use of technology (blogs, Yahoo groups, etc.) was also suggested and discussed.
3. Vestry commissioning. Will be March 11, 2007, at the 10:00 AM service.
4. Jeffords Hall Update.
 - a. 2/16/07 event garnered \$1.3 million in pledges. Statistically, the event on 3/9/07 should attain the \$2 million threshold. This event is at Amanda Scott's house. Some Vestry representation is desired.
 - b. The parish-wide kick-off is 3/11/07, and 3/18/07 is Commitment Sunday.
5. Fr. Paul is going to Tanzania in June with the Bishop and one lay member of St. David's. His purpose is to help establish the relationship with the diocese there, and to teach in the Anglican seminary on a second trip.
 - a. 6/11/07 to 6/22/07 for first trip to Tanzania. Second trip in October 2007.

- b. Also going to Honduras to evaluate mission that is taking place. Four days, date TBD.
6. Rector's discretionary fund. There is a need to audit it, especially in light of current problems in the Diocese of Atlanta.
- a. Clergy discretionary accounts are required, and must remain confidential. Given that, however, there must be some sort of audit.
 - b. Fr. Paul would like to appoint a "Steward of the Alms" for a five year term.
 - c. Proposed procedure:
 1. Each cleric keeps a journal of expense amounts, payee, purpose, etc.
 2. Once quarterly, the Steward will review the journal, investigate irregularities, ask questions about trends, large disbursements, etc.
 - d. Sr. Warden Steve Cunningham to form a subcommittee with himself, Charlie Gwynn and Bill Sleeper to formulate procedures.
7. Schedule change for non-Sunday activities. Issue for the Vestry to consider is that all Monday – Friday ministry activities move to Wednesday, in effect creating a "second Sunday." If this happens, then the church would be closed during a day in the week other than Wednesday. It was also mentioned that this may have some financial benefit, due to reduced utilities and variable personnel expense.
8. Julio Lema. Another meeting with the Diocese on 3/19/07. He could be ordained as a deacon in June or July, and could become a priest six months after that. This creates financial issues if he becomes a priest, because of the minimum salary required.
9. Budget discussion. Fr. Paul will submit a proposal to the Finance Committee to fund a youth priest (ordained cleric) and to ensure the continuation of the youth music minister full time, and to make appropriate cuts elsewhere to fund those two expenses.
10. The motion was made, seconded and passed that the 2006 Vestry and Finance Committee meet and prepare a balanced budget to be voted on by the next Vestry meeting on 3/27/07. Follow up from Finance Committee to come.

Submitted by Jim Landers