

Vestry Retreat
Jan 29, 2010:

Present: Rev. Anne Elizabeth Swiedler, Amanda Scott, Betsy Harvey, Bonnie Underwood, Cathy Jones, Charles McMillan, Del Reichardt, Jim Wilson, Lisa Puckett, Mike Tompros, Sally Goldberg, Thomas Nolf, Dave Wallace

Bonnie kicked off the 2010 Vestry retreat with prayer, followed by a potluck dinner. Cathy Jones led a fellowship exercise. Amanda Scott presented the draft Communication Strategy. The meeting was suspended to resume the following morning.

Jan 30, 2010:

Present: Rev. Anne Elizabeth Swiedler, Amanda Scott, Betsy Harvey, Bonnie Underwood, Cathy Jones, Charles McMillan, Del Reichardt, Jim Wilson, Lisa Puckett, Mike Tompros, Sally Goldberg, Thomas Nolf, Dave Wallace, Gail Greene, Secretary, Jim Landers, Treasurer.

Morning began with a Personal Style Inventory exercise.

Interim Rector selection update: 4 initial candidates identified by Canon Calloway, one dropped out for personal considerations. The one who dropped out is the only one among the 4 who serves as a “professional” interim. The other candidates have deep and long standing experiences in serving as Rectors, feel called to serve in this manner at this time and are not attached to a church at this time.

Mike Cops, Jim Landers, Alison Wilson, Tony Cathcart, Amanda Scott and Bonnie Underwood are the team members reviewing the candidates. Currently two candidates are still in consideration. Process for how group has made decisions reviewed including discussions about what the Parish needs at this time. The two candidates are very strong, one is local, the other in Nashville. Amanda pointed out that the group approached this process in a very prayerful manner.

After a break the Vestry met in the Nave for the Eucharist.

Motion to approve the Jan 19th minutes made, and seconded.

Search Committee discussion:

Demographic options reviewed. Must be confirmed Episcopalians and pledging members of St. Davids. One youth member was present on last search committee. Group brainstormed names and they will be “vetted” to ensure they are eligible. Sally Batson gave several suggestions regarding the development of a search committee. She was the chair of the previous search committee at St. Davids. Bonnie pointed out we will do a Parish profile and that is one opportunity for nonmembers to give input into the process. She also feels strongly that we follow the guidance of the Bishop’s office. Bonnie feels we should include members of some of the strong groups here. Group should be diverse and representative of different views but without a specific agenda and needs to “play well with others”. The members need to be able to represent the Parish by supporting the profile results even if they don’t completely agree with all aspects of it.

Financial update:

Two areas of discussion:

Bank situation – American Trust Bank. Meeting with Jim Landers, Lloyd Bowen and Charles McMillan on Monday where a discussion of how to move forward was discussed. Jim feels there isn't a better bank option at this time and reviewed his reasons for this opinion. Jim has talked to the Diocese several times this week for full disclosure. Bennie King has been acting this week in his role as the Diocesan treasurer and has been able to get some assistance in our discussions with the bank. And they will be able to support us in other ways as well once we have attempted everything we can to reduce the debt. Jim feels we need to continue making our Diocesan commitment to avoid becoming an "assisted parish". Cathy asked if there are any options other than selling it for Sinclair House. Jim said yes there are options and discussed some of these.

Amanda pointed out that the interim candidates have been sent a question asking how they will assist us in this challenge if selected. They will likely have fresh ideas and new energy to offer. Rev AE asked for period of silence to move into a spiritual fresh start and to let go of any anger or resentments about this situation.

Amanda asked the question wondering what our Christian responsibility is in regards to this situation and our actions should be in a positive, hopeful manner.

Motion made by Jim Wilson. We, the Vestry of St. David's Episcopal Church, authorize any two of the following officers of the corporation, President (Senior Warden,) Bonnie Underwood, Vice President (Junior Warden,) Charles McMillan, Secretary (Clerk) Amanda Scott, and Treasurer, Jim Landers, to execute warranty deeds, affidavits, closing statements, deeds to secure debts, promissory notes, and any and all other documents necessary to accomplish same.

Seconded by Betsy Harvey.

Motion passed with 9 approved and 1 disapproved.

Amanda Scott moved that **prior to mortgage closing, an emergency Vestry meeting is held to review legal review, indemnification status and closing details and that a final vote to close on the loan be held at that time.**

Bonnie Underwood seconded the motion.

Jim Landers will be responsible for checking on the indemnification status. Jim Landers will also take the responsibility to get Legal Counsel review. If necessary, Dave Wallace will do a high level investigation into purchasing D&O insurance.

Charles stated that if we do not close on the loan, we will go into default.

Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Objectives:

1. Reconcile the recovery plan
2. Plan immediate steps to increase revenue
3. Establish Solvency Committee
4. Develop communication plan

There are 3 components: Finance, Communication, Stewardship
The solvency committee will address these 3 components.

Meeting suspended until Sunday, Jan 31, at 1 PM in Bethany Room.

Sunday, January 31, 2010

Vestry brainstormed messages and methods of communications.

The Vestry agreed to release already approved budget to hire an assistant for integration and retention. Betsy will email to Bonnie a job description for this role that had been drafted earlier. Rev. AES will hire the person to fill this role.

Bonnie passed out a draft of a Sr. Warden update to the parish.

Plan is to have more town hall meetings in February.

Suggestions for stewardship chair were discussed. Dave and Amy Evins were suggested as chairs of Stewardship committee. Jim Wilson will be the Vestry liaison to the Stewardship Committee.

Amanda Scott asked for endorsement to create a communications committee. Amanda will be the chair. The committee will include parishioners.

Vestry liaisons were assigned to the ministries. Betsy volunteered to type up the list of ministries and Vestry liaisons.

Jim Landers and Charles McMillan confirmed that D&O insurance is in place and that the construction loan closing documents do not hold individual Vestry members, clergy, or the Treasurer personally liable.

Amanda Scott will draft an email blast which will include a parish-wide call to prayer for the parish, using BCP prayer #11.

Mike Tompros moved that the minutes from the Vestry Retreat be approved. Cathy Jones seconded. The motion was passed by a majority.