

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VESTRY OF ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DENVER, COLORADO HELD AT THE CHURCH TUESDAY JUNE 7, 2011

Present from the outset were Elizabeth Randall, Rich Rinehart, Richard DeTar, Judie James, Peter Thulson, Liz Evans, Susan Trickett, Jim Anthony, Sue Torfin, Lynn Hardcastle, Janice Burley, and Steve Grupe.

Elizabeth conducted the meditation, which was on Pentecost.

Steve Medema arrived at 6:50 p.m., and George Magnuson later.

Tim Krueger had an absence excused in advance, as was George Magnuson's late arrival.

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting as corrected was moved by Susan Trickett, seconded by Steve Grupe, and approved unanimously.

The Senior Warden will sign two copies of the Resolutions approved by the Vestry on May 3, 2011. One copy will be kept in the Parish house and one in the Clerk's home.

The Clerk stated that in future the minutes will be sent out to the members of the Vestry within a week after each meeting. The members will be given a week to send in comments and suggested corrections. The minutes and said suggestions and corrections will then be sent out again at least a week before the next meeting, at which it is expected they will most probably be approved. Susan Trickett will put the approved minutes on the wiki, and Bennett will link that part of the website to the Wiki.

Treasurer's report, Jim Anthony: We're holding at \$759,000. We're now where we need to be on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The \$734 figure for designated funds in general is not a correct figure. Work by Jim and Rich is proceeding on the form of the financial statement. Unpledged income is way behind, by \$18,100. Pledged income is ahead, by \$10,638. We are ahead due to designated funds. An overall shortfall is likely. Administrative expenses are over budget. In salaries and ministries, we are good. Buildings and grounds is over budget due to the timing of insurance payments. Music is \$5852 over. Designated funds have helped there. Tim has already purchased all of the music to be purchased all this year. The budget for singers is higher than expected. Tim will meet on this matter with Elizabeth, Rich, and Jim.

Regarding Sacred Vision/Sacred Path, there's \$30,169 in the capital campaign, which includes \$28,000 in the challenge. Loans from parishioners of \$55,000 are to be repaid by the end of this month. Prior to some of the loans being rolled over and others forgiven, this amount was \$85,000. Of the \$276,770, we have received \$175,573, which is 64%. \$18,175 of the challenge is not included. We're in good shape on this. There is \$22,000 to go on the challenge, \$10,000 of which is guaranteed. As for the \$85,000 in loans from parishioners, those who have made these loans want \$20,000 rolled over,

\$10,000 donated, and another \$10,000 repaid. The fate of the remaining \$45,000 is at this time unknown. \$100,000 is still to come in for Sacred Vision/Sacred Path. We have loan commitments of \$225,000. \$30,000 of this is from the Endowment.

There was discussion of what we would do if we could not meet the goals we have set for ourselves. The Colorado Episcopal Foundation has approved us. The bank has approved us verbally and will do so on paper. They'll approve loans up to \$230,000. Our "coverage ratio," the ratio of loans to annual operating expenses, must not rise above 1:1, exclusive of the sinking fund, but that requirement has been waived for 2011 only. Rich stated we have a very tight six months coming up. We can start the mortgage anytime we want up to July of 2012.

There was further discussion of financial matters. We hope to be able to quit asking the Parish for money for awhile. The Vestry expressed its thanks to Rich and Jim for all the work they have done on the Parish's finances.

At 7:50, Jim had to leave.

Elizabeth reported regarding blessings of same gender couples who are active, contributing parishioners. Our Bishop is ready to permit certain parishes to do this. We have permission for the Vestry to go ahead and discern whether St. Andrew's might be called to be such a parish. The views of parishioners will be solicited as part of this discernment, but it is the task of the Vestry to make this determination. Is the Vestry ready to go forward on this in this way? There is a couple who are ready to proceed when the Parish is ready. A member in good standing is one who receives communion at least thrice annually and contributes financially to the church. There is not liturgy in the Book of Common Prayer for this. A liturgy now in draft form will be the only one approved for use in this diocese. This would be a liturgy for trial use. There was discussion of this matter and of in what ways these couples might differ from heterosexual couples in their eligibility for ceremonies here. Gay couples have given thanks for their relationships, but this would go beyond that, including vows, rings, and a blessing.

Steve Grupe now had to leave.

Probably six or fewer parishes are likely to take this step. Our diocese is not the only one doing this. It was the sense of the Vestry that we should move forward with finding out the views of the Parish on this. What about those who might oppose this? How are we to make it clear that we are open to their input even if they are a minority? How divisive might this be?) We shall have a task force to design the discernment process. Sue Torfin, Susan Trickett, and Liz volunteered to help the Rector design the discernment process.

There was discussion of Who Is My Neighbor? When the money issues are solved, the Parish will be freed up to move forward on Who Is My Neighbor? There is a need for a steering committee to decide what to do with the money, including some

members of the Vestry and some people from the Outreach Committee. Who is the neighborhood? Elizabeth defined the difference between evangelism and outreach. The money for this will be 10% of the Sacred Vision/Sacred Path income. Who will be in the abovementioned steering committee? How will they be chosen? Many parishioners seem to be champing at the bit on this matter. Elizabeth asked for volunteers from the Vestry. It was agreed that at its July meeting, the Vestry will construct a charge to the steering committee so that the committee can begin its work. Janice Burley, Judie James, and Peter Thulson volunteered for the steering committee. Susan Trickett and Eric Frame are part of the outreach ministry and will also be part of this project.

Logistics for the next Vestry retreat, to be held August 19-21 will be handled by Liz and Lynn. How should this be coordinated with the Ministry Collaboration Team?

We had a closing prayer done by Elizabeth, and we adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard DeTar, Clerk