

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VESTRY OF ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DENVER, CO HELD AT THE CHURCH ON DECEMBER 6, 2011

Present from the outset: Richard DeTar, Elizabeth Randall, Rich Rinehart, Susan Trickett, Shelley Brown, Wib Garfield, Janice Burley, George Magnuson, Sue Torfin, Jim Anthony, Tim Krueger, Lynn Hardcastle, Steve Grupe, Judie James, and Peter Thulson.

Liz Evans was not feeling well, and Steve Medema would be late.

The meeting began at 6:38 p.m.

Elizabeth led us in a meditation on this week's gospel passage. The November minutes were approved. This was moved by Sue and seconded by Peter. Approval was unanimous, except that Susan abstained because she was not at the November meeting. Steve Grupe mentioned he cannot always tell from the minutes whether the person mentioned is himself or Steve Medema. I shall try to make this clearer in the future.

Financial report: The auction made \$15,454 gross this year. Some expenses are not yet in. Overall, we ran a deficit of \$13,000. A deficit of \$5000 had been budgeted at the beginning of this year. \$35,000 which was pledged for this year is not in yet. \$10,000 came in this past Sunday. This next Sunday's unpledged (plate) income goes to the Bishop. We currently have \$16,192 in bills not yet paid. About \$10,000 of this is part of our pledge to the Diocese. Payroll is being met. \$8477 was paid to Outreach, and \$4737.75 of that came from the Endowment. Judie noted that the remaining 25%, which was not disbursed, is being left in the Endowment now until it is needed.

The Stewardship Campaign: Pledges are in totaling \$138,350. There are 38 households' pledges in, one third of the Parish. If what is in already did in fact total 1/3 of all the pledges in money terms, we would be in very good shape. Tim noted that music is now \$574 under budget. The average pledge so far is \$3600. Sue noted that the giving of financial figures to the congregation in church was well done. We have not brought in as many people this year as we did last. Some who came in last year are now pledging. We have four new pledging units. There was discussion of how best to ask people for money, striking a balance between being too overt and not overt enough about this.

Steve Medema arrived at 7:28.

Things are looking good for the end of the year, but the 2012 budget may be difficult, because we won't be borrowing from designated funds anymore. A good December is needed. Susan asked what will happen if it is not good, and there was discussion of this matter.

The January 2012 Vestry meeting was changed from the third of that month to the tenth, in order that more financial information may be available by the time of the meeting.

Rich explained accrual accounting and gave some information about how it works. Borrowing from designated funds now shows up on the balance sheet.

The Special Year-End Fundraising Appeal: Information on our Outreach grants (which see) was passed out to the members of the Vestry. The total budgeted to be given out by Outreach in 2011 was \$10,000. Can we ask for year-end gifts for the shortfall and for Outreach? The latter is disproportionately affected by 2011's problems. There was discussion of making this campaign all about Outreach only. There was also discussion about how to word this appeal and when to make it. Should there be mention of this on Christmas Eve? Should we designate all or part of the Christmas Eve income for Outreach? What about doing this on the 18<sup>th</sup>? Who will help the Rector's Advisory Committee with the special fundraising letter? Rich explained how this appeal will work and the timing of it.

Mortgage Loan Interest: Here there are many alternatives, nine of them in fact. Risk and interest vary inversely. A rate of interest of 6.17% could be lowered to 5.68% by extending the number of years in which there would be a prepayment penalty from the first four to the entire 20-year life of the loan. We should get the lowest rate we can without thereby exposing a future Vestry to more risk. When do the payments start?

A resolution was proposed to accept the bank's offer of a fixed-rate, 20-year loan with yield maintenance for the length of the loan and an interest rate of 5.68%. Monthly payments would be \$3839.51. The amount of the loan would be \$550,000. Susan proposed this, Steve Grupe seconded it, and the vote was unanimous in favor of it. It was noted that the resolution actually was for us to get the lowest available rate at the time of the actual signing of the loan, and that said rate may not be at the time of signing precisely 5.68%, though it will probably be close to that.

Nominating Committee: Judie gave the report. Liz was ill as noted above. There had been some confusion about the time of the meeting, and no meeting was held. There will be an e-mail report and a meeting within ten days. There have been problems of not knowing just how to handle voluntary nominations from the Parish. This is not something which has been done in the past. Should the bylaws be revised? Elizabeth commended the Committee for the high quality of its nominees. The next Parish annual meeting will be held January 29, 2012. We're giving more than the required three weeks notice of this. On that day, there will be one service, at 10:00 a.m., and a potluck.

The Upcoming Visit of the Bishop: The Bishop will visit St. Andrew's on December the 11<sup>th</sup> for both the 9:00 and the 11:00 services. He will do Godly Play in between. Adults are welcome to watch this but may not speak. He will want to discuss the four areas of focus he talked about at the Diocesan Convention. The lunch with the Bishop will be held in the Owner's Club on the seventh floor of One Lincoln Park, just

across the street from St. Andrew's, and not at the Mercury Café, though it will be catered by the Mercury Cafe. It will begin in that room and then move on to the home of new parishioners Daniel and Ann King in the same building. There was discussion of how the Vestry will do the coffee hours on the eleventh.

We have recently been contacted about three opportunities to reach out and welcome our neighbors. Peter Thulson spoke about his and Anne's camp. The Thulsons operate a three-week art camp in the summer. There was also a report about the possible use of our undercroft as a shelter for homeless single women without children. Can we help other churches shelter homeless women? The third opportunity is called "Doors Open Denver." Peter: What is the sense of the Vestry regarding using our undercroft as an alternate site in 2012 for a children's art and animation camp? This would be held in June. Shelley: This would need to conform to the requirements of "safeguarding God's children." Elizabeth notes the adults involved would need to have had said training. The fee per child is \$275 a week. It is a for-profit venture. Rich: What would be the official relation of the camp and St. Andrew's? Steve Medema: What has been paid in the past to Odyssey School for the use of their facilities, where the camp has been held, should be used to allow the children of St. Andrew's and of our neighborhood to attend the camp. Peter and Anne will learn more about these matters and prepare to address the above questions and concerns. It appears it will not interrupt any ministries. There was discussion of the logistics. Shelley asked about Wi-Fi. Peter said the instructor is the only one to use it. Fiduciary issues were raised. This matter will be looked into further. There may be legal issues.

Wib reported on the shelter for homeless women. Seven churches have been asked to get together and provide this by the City and County of Denver. There would be 20 women at each church once a week through the end of April. The New Jerusalem Church is doing all the nights now. We're meeting on this with other churches. Will this be a place to sleep only, or will there be meals provided also? At this point, this will be for single women without children only. There are many places which shelter women with children. Inflatable mattresses may be used. Legal issues are covered in this situation by the principle of sanctuary. We probably want to have 3 parishioners here overnight each night the women are here. There will be laundry needs. A volunteer coordinator will be needed. Elizabeth says that Friday is probably the best night to do this. Our guests would be referred to us by The Gathering Place and by The Delores Project. No transportation will be provided for our guests to get here. Elizabeth: We need the Vestry to really engage with and commit to this, and we need to act soon on it. Steve Medema: We should consider liability and security issues on this, though it is in general a great thing to do. Rich: How would the city help out on this? Steve Medema: Where might the money come from? There might be funding available. Wib will be helped by Sue on this. We're going to learn more about it.

The third opportunity, "Open Doors Denver," was assigned to a new and as yet unnamed committee, which might be called in future "Welcoming," "Inclusion," or "Evangelism."

Sue asked if the sandwiches, still another opportunity, need to actually be made here. Wib: Diana Solomon is in charge of this, and each church provides sandwiches once a month.

Shelley: The Ministerial Collaboration Team met on the 19<sup>th</sup> of last month, and there was discussion of children and of how to enable the parents of young children to participate in programs.

Peter: Who Is My Neighbor? Met for the second time. Its work and research are proceeding forward.

Rich: He will lead a small committee to do the Rector's performance review before the annual meeting of the Parish.

Susan reported that 45 St. Andrew's calendars have been sold.

We adjourned with prayer.