

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY OF ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DENVER, CO HELD IN THE UNDERCROFT JANUARY 10, 2012

Present at the beginning: Jim Anthony, Elizabeth Randall, Tim Krueger, Janice Burley, Sue Torfin, George Magnuson, Lynn Hardcastle, Peter Thulson, Rich Rinehart, Richard DeTar, Liz Evans, Judie James, Susan Trickett, Shelley Brown

The meeting began at 6:39 p.m. Our prayer and meditation involved the active use of our imaginations, to envision what God wants us to do here in our neighborhood. Bennett Buenconsuejo, Church Administrator, came at 7:00. Neither Steve Grupe nor Steve Medema will be here this evening.

Susan moved approval of the 12/11 minutes. Sue seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee: The Vestry approved their report, biographies of the candidates will be publicized on Sunday. There will be a Sunday evening gathering at Judie and Richard's house on January 22nd for the Vestry candidates, to welcome them. The Nominating Committee will figure out how the voting will work and inform those conducting the meeting.

Financial Report: The red envelopes and the Christmas offering went extremely well. We were able to pay \$9000 which was outstanding in Outreach grants, \$2500 back to designated funds, and get our bills caught up. Caledonian reimburses us for work done by Mike Giddings and some done by Bennett. They reimburse us \$1026 a month. We are all paid up on our bills as of the end of 2011. The auction owes only \$984 of an original \$15,000 or so budgeted. We have \$25,000 of the \$115,000 for a reserve for the repayment of parishioner loans. 2011's unpledged income was under budget by about \$22,000, we had feared it would be almost twice that. Unlike in the past, money given over pledges will go into unpledged and not pledged income. Elizabeth notes that we are behind only \$4000 of the \$320,000 pledged, and about \$3500 of that may be due to people leaving the Parish. The red envelopes have brought in \$14,000. But fundraising activities brought in about \$6600 less than budgeted. Some fundraising activities were mentioned.

Expenses: Our present sexton seems to be doing a good job. Several people have noticed this. Ministries expenses are distorted by designated funds, especially the Outreach item. 75% of 2010 Endowment income was not received till January 2011. There was discussion of how altar guild and acolyte expenses are divided in the budgeted vs. actual document. Administrative expenses were \$2400 under budget. Building insurance went up quite a bit, maybe because it took awhile before our rates were adjusted upwards for our building improvements. Utilities expenses seem to vary a lot in not particularly obvious ways, notes the Junior Warden. Music was only \$312 over budget. Tim kept expenses low. Rich states there are some late 2010 expenses, \$9-10,000, in the 2011 expenses, which puts us within \$2000 or \$3000 of breaking even. Sue wanted to know if we have stayed within our means as well as we have by deferring maintenance. Judie indicated we're doing so well partly because we have avoided major buildings and grounds disasters by being lucky. We still do not have a sinking fund for this. We looked again at the designated funds. There are three large such funds and a number of small ones. Some of the latter have been zeroed out and will be removed from future financial reports.

Jim also passed around a draft budget. Stewardship amounts to \$289,000, we were hoping for \$325,000. \$300,000 may be realistic, considering pledge cards still outstanding, but not \$325,000. Rich noted \$50,000 would be the total amount of outstanding pledges if none of those people changed their pledges either way. There are some new people who give quite a bit but have not pledged. There are also some long-time members who do not pledge, whose giving is counted as unpledged.

Visioning and Planning: Rich reported on the workshop on moving from a transitional Parish to a program church. This can take years to do, maybe even 10-15. It was indicated at this workshop that churches tend not to stay in the transitional phase but go one way or the other. This process emphasizes planning. There is still work to do on the vision statement, and a good planning process is needed. Rich has put together a powerpoint on this, and he showed it to us to establish context for the budget. He went over the history of the visioning process, including what the parishioners said they want St. Andrew's to do and be. A one-mile circle drawn around St. Andrew's would be very diverse. Foci included music and liturgy, community life, local outreach, adult formation, and children and youth. It is noted there were 40 women at the women's book group on Monday evening. 2012 foci: sustainability, financial mgmt., evangelism and growth, community, and looking outward. Figures were shown comparing where we are now with being a program church. Each of the 2012 foci was fleshed out with some more concrete steps to take in the current year and what has happened so far on various ones of these.

In the 2012 budget, 2012 amounts are often the actual 2011 amounts. We began to go over the proposed 2012 budget an item at a time, which I shall not do here. There was discussion of whether the 2012 budgets for ministries are using figures from those ministries or the actual 2011 expenditures. Some items were discussed in detail to move us toward a finalized version of the budget. We also considered the amounts requested by the various ministries. The deficit after we went through the expense items was \$74,950. Now it is time to discuss income items. Sue suggested we hold several more fundraising events. There was discussion of some of the possibilities along this line. Elizabeth notes that pledges were increased, in some cases quite significantly. There was also discussion of how this matter of the shortfall should be presented to the Parish. Periodic financial crises seem to be a feature of being a transitional church, according to the experience of other congregations who have been in this stage. Elizabeth stressed the need for the Vestry to be clear on our vision for the church. Rich wondered about periodic "red envelope" campaigns, perhaps one each season of the year. There was discussion of what figure to use for the pledged income, the actual amount received at a given time or a higher figure based on further pledges expected.

The format of the annual meeting might be different this year. Rich suggested we use in the 2012 budget the actual pledged amount at the time of the annual meeting. There followed an item by item discussion of the income part of the budget. How should the shortfall be presented to the Parish at the annual meeting? There were a number of ideas on this.

Liz moved to tentatively approve the budget subject to final figures for the line items. There will your heart be also, pledges, and designated funds. The final budget will be voted on Monday the 23rd by e-mail all day long. Janice seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Judie wanted to see the final

numbers before it was approved, and Susan agreed. There will be an e-mail meeting concerning the final figures before the annual meeting. Beckett Stokes will be making some phone calls on Stewardship. Judie said we should be more consistent on which amounts are shown in the budget and which amounts are not shown and just treated as amounts being passed through.

Peter passed out a report on Who Is My Neighbor? Sue Torfin reported, verbally and in writing, on the project to include St. Andrew's with a group of other churches providing shelter for homeless single women without children.

We adjourned with a prayer by Elizabeth at 9:47 pm.