

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VESTRY OF ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DENVER, CO HELD JULY 5, 2011 IN THE CHURCH'S UNDERCROFT

Present were Judie James, Richard DeTar, Rich Rinehart, Elizabeth Randall, Sue Torfin, Steve Grupe, Wib Garfield, Susan Trickett, Janice Burley, Liz Evans, and Lynn Hardcastle. Those with excused absences were Steve Medema, Peter Thulson, Jim Anthony, George Magnuson, Eric Frame, and Tim Krueger.

At 6:35, we opened the meeting with prayer and meditation.

The June minutes as corrected were approved, moved by Liz and seconded by Judie.

Regarding blessings of same-gender relationships, as dealt with on the "lavender sheet" of information regarding same: Elizabeth stated the table conversations are most important. Steve noted the recognition of such relationships may go way back in church history. Vestry members should try to attend a table conversation. Rich suggested an FAQ sheet be produced on this matter; the task force will produce some kind of document for the Parish which might include FAQs.

An All-Parish Event: One is needed this Summer. Rich reports Tom Phillips is heading the Resource Development Committee and doing a picnic, but notes his committee is small. Can the Vestry itself co-host such an event? Judie noted the Parish Life Committee wants to do something similar. Rich or Elizabeth will talk to Parish Life about working with the R.D.C. The Opportunity Fair will be held September 11<sup>th</sup>. Liz, Susan Trickett, and Bob Bartalot are the team working on planning this. Elizabeth asked how many volunteers actually come out of the Opportunity Fairs. Steve pointed out we should not try to do too much on September 11<sup>th</sup>, a lot is going on that day. Rich: Are we trying to do too much? Liz: How about a fun Parish event roughly midway between the Opportunity Fair and the auction. Sue Torfin: The talent show when we were still at Holy Redeemer worked very well. Judie: The RDC is to raise money. Elizabeth: she and Rich will talk to Tom and Katherine, the last-mentioned being chair of Parish Life. Rich: Let the Opportunity Fair be itself.

Finances: We received a treasurer's report from Jim, but June financials were not ready yet. Now we shall negotiate with the Colorado State Bank regarding interest rates. This is complex. How do we decide? We need a task force for recommendations. The SVSP \$100,000 would be a good start on a reserve fund. There is \$17,600 for "Who Is My Neighbor?" Our audit is expected to be done by mid-August. Rich: We're going into the slow time of the year. Mortgage payments must begin at some point, July 2012 at the latest, but could be earlier. The Vestry decides when we activate this.

Who Is My Neighbor? The committee will consist of 2 to 3 people each from the Vestry, the Outreach Committee, and the Parish at large. The Outreach Committee wants to know what is the charge to the WIMN committee. There is discussion of this very question. Elizabeth: This will be a three-year project. Judie mentions development of

the parking lots as being part of this. Elizabeth: This project's tasks might include to establish connections with the neighborhood and with existing groups doing similar work. It might focus on the new public housing across from Benedict Fountain Park. How often should this project report? What point in time should it shoot for in terms of its first report? There is discussion of how the project's money might be spent. Who will be on the committee for it? Part of its charge might be how the St. Andrew's community can be gathered into the process of discerning what WIMN will do. Elizabeth will write up the charge to the committee planning WIMN.

Wib had no report as such.

The Junior Warden (Judie) reported on box elder bugs. Should the female box elder tree be cut down? Should it and/or the male be trimmed? Should we poison the bugs? Steve G. said that he was offended by the City Forester calling our tree a "trash tree." A consensus arose on these points: 1) The tree should not be cut down. 2) No poison should be used on the bugs because of potential harm to the bunnies. We can tolerate some bugs in the buildings. 3) A decision on professional tree trimming should be delayed until September, when the budget situation is more clear. This would still result in the trees being trimmed prior to ice storms that could cause branches to fall. 4) Parish volunteers could remove low-hanging dead branches, but should not be asked to work in unsafe situations that require a professional.

The sexton has been fired, a new one is needed. Judie has met with Elizabeth to give input on a position description for the next sexton. We were paying our last sexton \$10 an hour, with a work schedule of 10 hours per week. Given our budget constraints, it is expected that these will be the wages and hours for the new sexton. She noted that, over the past five years, the money spent for sexton services, in terms of hourly wages and number of hours of work per week, has been declining, while the overall parish budget has been steadily growing. Judie said that any input from the vestry about duties for our next sexton would be welcomed.

Elizabeth, Rector: We have a temporary sexton now. We are looking for someone who will work ten hours a week. At the Diocesan Convention, we are assigned four lay delegate positions. It will be held October 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> in Grand Junction. Delegates should probably come from the Vestry. We have only two days to choose them. Two of the four are Rich and Judie. Volunteers were requested. This is a gathering with good workshops. These meetings have been moving away from so much voting on matters. Colorado's delegation to General Convention has become a model for diverse groups within the delegation getting along and working together. Sue Torfin volunteered, as did Liz Evans. Our two alternates will be Janice Burley and Susan Trickett.

Susan Trickett reports our lettuce is doing well.

The Vestry retreat committee has not met yet. They do not handle the program. Rich and Elizabeth will plan the program and may ask for input from others. There was discussion of how the sign-up to do the meals will work.

Susan Trickett, on Eric Frame's behalf, says the Outreach table will be revamped. The Parish is participating in Pedal for Nets, which is a benefit for the malaria net project of Episcopal Relief and Development, and the AIDS Walk.

After our closing prayer, we adjourned at 8:52.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard DeTar, Clerk