

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VESTRY OF ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DENVER, COLORADO HELD AUGUST 3, 2010

The meeting began at 6:35 pm. Present were Liz Evans, Rich Rinehart, Peter Thulson, Lynn Hardcastle, Eric Frame, Tim Krueger, George Magnuson, Elizabeth Randall, Steve Grupe, Martha Bollenbacher, Jim Anthony, Janice Burley, Judie James, Richard DeTar, Beckett Stokes, and Andy Robinson.

There was a meditation.

Brian Hyde and Shelley Brown arrived.

Martha gave the figures for the Outreach Committee for June 20, 2009 and June 30, 2010. She explained about the \$50,000 (See her report.) Jim: We did not anticipate the amount in the budget. Last year all 100% went to Outreach. Rich proposed the same, Jim and Elizabeth seconded simultaneously. Judie said several items about that size are needed. Elizabeth says she was told during the search process that use for operating expenses was the norm. Judie read from the Bylaws regarding the remaining 25%. Rich: Defer this until after the Treasurer's report. Lynn: What is our return on the investments in the Outreach fund? Martha: It varies, and sometimes we lose money on them. Rich: It looks to him as though it is 8-9%.

Andy: Yesterday there was a meeting on the plans for the new Capital Campaign beyond debt reduction. People mainly want to do outreach, music, and our children's program. The campaign will last two years, and we need \$305,000 by the middle of 2011. There are \$35,000 in delayed pledges for the first capital campaign. It will cost \$480,000 to service our debt. Could we raise \$50,000 more? There is a "huge asset waiting to be developed," the parking lots. What does the neighborhood need? This next capital campaign will be called "Sacred Vision/Sacred Path." It will involve debt reduction and the use of the parking lots in such a way as to serve the neighborhood. Rich: We were advised to think about this in the Fall. Beckett: A new tool is available for finding out a lot demographically. George: Listen to existing neighborhood groups. Elizabeth: The vision emerging from this could be very exciting. Beckett: We should find out what other urban churches do. Andy: It must be concrete. Tim: It must be realistic. Steve: We can't be all things to all people. Beckett: The Parish wants action to be local. There was discussion of leveraging. Peter: \$50,000 is lot for discernment. Let us engage and not just measure. Rich: \$50,000 in front-end expenses are not that much. Normally such expenses are 10% of a whole project. Brian: People will want to know who we're hiring. Let us be clear. Rich: We need to articulate this in such a way that people will respond to it. Andy: The campaign will be from September 19th to October 17th. Can the Vestry host a potluck after the 11:00 service at the beginning of the campaign? Information will be general at that time. Andy runs some projected numbers and discusses this capital campaign in relation to the first one.

Andy has to leave and does so at 7:48. Rich: \$305,000 is due in less than a year. What do we do if we can't pay that, or the amount due in 2012? Rich: We need a small group of professionals. Janice: How are we going to pay for all this? Judie: What we'd build might be self-sustaining. Janice: We have to be concrete. Eric: The numbers should be driven by what we want to do. Rich: Parking lots are way down the list of what people in the Parish see as important. They are a means to an end. Jim: Some things are specific enough for a capital campaign, and others are not. Rich: We must be clear. Shelley: People want to focus outward after the first campaign. Elizabeth: Giving is foundational to our faith. Rich: We're asking ministries to meet and suggest what they could do with money. Janice: Make it clear this is based on Parish views and desires. Elizabeth: We're tithing. What could transform the neighborhood in terms of helping others? Liz: We're about the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Judie: The pressure of time is forcing decisions. Tim: Our neighbors include people working downtown. Eric: Didn't we already expand the building to do these things? Rich: It takes more people to do more things. Beckett: Capital campaigns build an operating base.

The minutes from the July meeting: Shelley noted that she was present and says it would improve the minutes if the name of the report being given was at the beginning of each paragraph. (These were not done that way, but I shall try to do so in the future.) Steve moved acceptance of the July minutes as amended, Lynn seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

The Visioning Process: There will be an Opportunity Fair on September 12th. Should we report to the Parish then. It was explained why this would be a good time to do so. Should the survey be released before that?

Here follow a number of points which struck people about Parish responses to the survey, in no particular order: Elizabeth – 90% said outreach began with Parishioner education. Judie – Who would say no to these questions? Rich – This shows we are not way off. Janice – Outreach will determine how the lots are developed. Steve – We're usually low profile. Elizabeth – We are also hard to get to. Shelley – “Strongly agree” and “agree” are mostly in the 80s and 90s. Beckett – Disagreements are mostly about children and youth. Peter – On some questions, there is significant disagreement.

There was discussion of the issue of “open comments,” releasing comments in their entirety or summarizing them. Brian – He notes numbers 15, 18, 19, and 21 are the questions with the highest numbers of people feeling neutral. Beckett – Most people here with children were here before they had children. Elizabeth – There is already money in the capital campaign for children.

In regard to the rankings of the relative importance of various matters: Rich – We should focus more on doing than on building. Peter – Bike racks should be a low priority. Rich – Questions 2 and 17 are interesting. George –

Parking lots rank low. Beckett – many people may not understand the backstory regarding the parking lots. Communicating too much can be a problem. Tim – We spent on bricks, now we should spend on people. There were general discussion comments on the survey regarding diversity, financial transparency, borrowing from designated funds, and feedback on the survey.

Get this out to the Parish in August, by the 23rd? The Rector will summarize survey results for the Parish. How should we get it out? How should we get feedback? Here doth people discuss computer stuff.

Janice: We're losing some significant volunteer people. Send in recommendations for their replacements if we if we have any.

Judie brings up the elevator maintenance contract. It is put off for a month.

The conflict of our Vestry Retreat with Regional Convocations is not a problem, as one can go to another region's convocation.

Eric has resigned as Outreach Committee chair. He also cannot attend Vestry meetings through (or is it "until?") February of 2011.

We adjourned.