

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VESTRY OF ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DENVER, COLORADO, HELD AT THE CHURCH SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

Excused absences: Susan, Steve Medema, Lynn, Jim, Eric

Present: Richard, Judie, George, Liz, Peter, Elizabeth, Rich, Wib, Steve G., Sue, Janice

The meeting began at 6:40 p.m.

Elizabeth led us in prayer and meditation.

Sue moved acceptance of the August minutes, Judie seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Steve Grupe moved acceptance of the minutes of the special meeting held August 20<sup>th</sup> at the Vestry retreat, at which we approved the resolution on the blessing of same-gender relationships. Peter seconded it, and it was also unanimously approved.

In Jim's absence, Rich gave the financial report. We owe designated funds \$23,000. The Endowment is slightly down. The Who Is My Neighbor? amount must be calculated, and this will be done soon. Unpledged income is expected to be down \$40,000 by the end of the year unless the current trend reverses. The Rector's Advisory Committee eliminated fourteen designated funds, totaling \$5000. There is a favorable variance of \$10,000, due to our not paying bills until they are due. How did the borrowing from designated funds ever rise to \$33,000, when it was at most \$28,000, and we said we would do it no more? Rich pointed out which numbered pairs of line items corresponded to one another in the balance sheet. Budget vs. actuals: There was discussion of which items were over and under budget and what this might mean. Much of the \$5000 found in designated funds by the RAC was in the area of music.

A good auction is needed. Steve G. notes St. John's Cathedral has an organ concert and dedication the same night as the auction, which will draw people away. Designated funds "funds out" can be applied to operating expenses, that is, they have already been so applied. This reduced our liability by \$6551.13. The funds thus zeroed out will not be shown in the future. There was further discussion of designated funds, some in terms of music, some of Altar Guild, and how expenses vary from month to month over the year.

Elizabeth discussed the resolution she proposed, which is attached to her report. "We don't foresee a big need for that (remaining) \$10,000." We have a need for evangelism. "The redesignation would fall within the broad strokes of the Keeping the Faith Fund." This fund was designated by the Vestry, not by the donor. Can we change the purpose of half of the \$10,000 from support of seminarians (We have no seminarians now and foresee none.) to evangelism? Some of the evangelism funds could go for various forms of advertising. There was discussion of changing the name of evangelism line item 5315 to "Parish Life." There was discussion of the Rector's motion.

Elizabeth moved her resolution. Steve G. seconded it. We would by this action designate the \$5000, not appropriate it. The resolution approved reads as follows: “The Vestry of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Denver, Colorado resolves to take \$5000 from the \$10,000 Keeping the Faith Fund for seminarian support and redesignate these funds to be used for evangelism. These funds will be available, with Vestry permission, to the evangelism ministry, which will be created in the Fall of 2011.”

There was discussion of the auction time and place in relation to the Cathedral’s organ concert. There was discussion of the timing of the auction in relationship to the stewardship campaign. Elizabeth mentioned St. Thomas’s one-day stewardship campaign, including the education of parishioners on how much it costs to operate St. Andrew’s.

Judie: How do we get the word out to the ministries to spend less? Elizabeth mentioned this at the Ministerial Collaboration Team retreat. Judie noted we also do not want people to feel pushed to pay for things out of their own pockets.

There was discussion of the MCT retreat, of the Ministry Fair, and of the charters of ministries, showing their charges, which will come to the Vestry over the next two months. (“Charges” here mean what the ministry is formally charged with doing, and is not to be taken in any financial sense.)

The Vestry’s team for the trivia challenge from St. Barnabas’s is being organized. We now have six volunteers of the eight we need for a full trivia team.

The Diocesan Convention: Convocation will be held September 24<sup>th</sup>. Elizabeth, George, Janice, and Sue are going. The convention will be attended by the same four people plus Rich and Judith. There was discussion of who is going to share rooms with whom and who can do so. There are restrictions on members of the clergy sharing rooms with members of the laity.

Regarding the Vestry Retreat held last month, the Ministerial Collaboration Team also dealt with the mission statement. They responded to the statement but were not invited to “wordsmith” it. Are we ready to adopt the mission statement? The MCT liked the Trinitarian subtext. Liz moved the statement. Peter seconded it. It will be reevaluated after a year. It was unanimously adopted.

There was discussion of the Vestry retreat and of which of the eight tasks identified there have been done. The first four have. The second four have not.

Who Is My Neighbor? – Peter will chair the steering committee. There is a long list of people who may be on this committee. There’ll be a report at the annual Parish meeting. George reported the men’s retreat and book groups are drawing much interest. The catechumenate is forming up for this Fall but may not be doable this year. There may not be enough people to form the necessary community. But it is too early now to say this for certain.

Wib reported that this time she did not have a lot to report.

Judie: We have a leak in the boiler room. We can pay as we go instead of having a maintenance contract for this sort of thing. Peter may help with swamp cooler maintenance. Duane Claassen and Mike Giddings deserve recognition for mowing the grass all Summer. Peter passed around photos of a possible bike rack. Rich: Bennett says the copier lease is up soon. Bennett knows of a five-year lease costing much less. Rich has questions about this, and he mentions some of them.

Elizabeth reports Tim is sick. Judie mentions that the Outreach Committee will put a bulletin board above their table in the undercroft. Wib: The displays on this table will be periodically changed.

Rich asked how much time we should devote to digging into the details of the budget. "This will be the first year we've had an accurate picture of what we've actually spent." There will be input from the ministry heads before the Vestry does the budget. Jim will get reports out to them also. There was general discussion of the budgetary process. We're doing "bottom up" budgeting. Wib noted that some places offer alternatives: a bare minimum budget, a "dream" budget, and an in-between budget based on past income growth figures.

There was discussion of the nominating committee and process. Six nominees are needed to fill three positions. How are the wardens chosen? We'll form the nominating committee in October.

Judie noted ministries need to consider cash flow.

Elizabeth: Communications Ministry, how do we get the word out about things? David Tweed designed a rolling sign board. This would cost about \$1000 to build, and donors have appeared. Three donors will cover the cost of the abovementioned bike rack.

We adjourned with prayer at 8:57 p.m.