VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

MAY 16, 2017

Present: Bruce McPherson (Rector), Charley Hoffman (Senior Warden), Mary Helman (Junior Warden), Rich Allen, Cappy McMurtray, Doug Price, Bill Chambers, John Sniegowski, Susan Generazio, Michele Braithwaite, Tom Appich (Register)

Absent: Jeff Greenfield, Anne Allen

1. Tom Appich presented the Bible Study.

2. The Consent Agenda was presented for approval. There was no Worship Committee report since the Worship Committee had just met. The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.

3. Matters for Approval: none.

4. Matters for Discussion:

a. Rental Ministry update (Darrell Rison): the financial results so far this year are good. Darrell is working with the Treasurer, Bookkeeper, and Finance Committee Chair to review and clarify procedures for accurate processing of collection receipts. Darrell gave a summary of upcoming bookings. He is also working on the following:

* develop a strategic marketing plan and has asked for a small budget to pursue that plan;
* list the Parish Hall on Wedding-Spot.com, a website for wedding venues that offers free membership and support;
* draw up a list of items of documentation that are needed and draft/update them;
* overhaul the Rental Contract, which has some inconsistencies of language;
* consolidate the email access points for the Rental Ministry;
* improve financial reporting mechanisms;
* recruit new event managers;
* contact parties who have previously rented the Grand Hall but who have not been back for a while;
* organize a Rental Ministry cleanup day to provide a thorough wash-down of all rental equipment, especially the chairs;
* review pricing policies;
* discontinue the practice of allowing event managers to act as clean-up crew for events;
* look for ways that the event managers can participate in providing administration services in slack times during events.

b. Search Committee report (Roger Libby): Roger reported that they have narrowed the field down to five candidates and that the first round of Skype/phone interviews has been completed with a view to focusing on specific core competencies that the new rector should possess. The effort is proceeding on schedule. The goal is to have negotiations on compensation and the possible use of the Rectory completed by mid-summer and a new rector installed by fall 2017.

c. AV Committee report (Tom Appich): Tom reported that offers have been obtained from three vendors. The vendors all visited the Parish Hall in person and did surveys of the room. Tom is scheduled to meet with Bob Hall this weekend to evaluate the offers and recommend one to the Vestry for acceptance. Bruce will confer with the Stewardship Committee on fund-raising options. He would like to avoid dipping into the Capital Improvements fund if at all possible.

d. Good Shepherd Players report (Michele Braithwaite); the show was well attended (audience total: 635). There were many compliments from the audience; “nice show” was often heard. 35 parishioners participated as cast or crew. The Players are self-funded except for in-kind support from the church (facilities, utilities). The budget for shows is around $11,000. There was a special-needs performance that was especially well received. The suggestion was made that the latter performance be opened up to include younger children who are startled by loud noises. The effort is multi-generational and ecumenical.

e. Junior Warden’s report (Mary Helman): Her main goal is to keep people engaged through the Preschool and community activities. She requested $250 from the Operating Reserve for this goal. The request was approved unanimously. The effort is to be advertised on the COGS website. Mary has also organized a series of “Thursday Nights at Good Shepherd” between June 29 and July 27. The events will include dinner and an activity. Some of the proposed activities include a bike rodeo, Dinner and Movie night, Family Scavenger Hunt, Sports Night, and Celebration of Summer. She and her team are working on publicity for this event series.

f. Senior Warden’s report (Charley Hoffman): Mutual Ministry Review. A Mutual Ministry Review is required by both the Good Shepherd By-Laws and the letter of agreement with the interim rector. The goals are:

* assess how well the interim rector, wardens, and Vestry are performing their duties;
* evaluate progress on development tasks;
* plan for a healthy closure to the interim ministry and prepare for the coming of the new rector; isolate areas of conflict;
* clarify the expectations of all parties to put any future conflicts into manageable form.

The main issue to be resolved is dealing with the left-over conflicts lingering from relationships with previous clergy. The next rector will have to “keep calm and carry on “ in order to keep these conflicts from re-emerging. While considerable progress has been made in resolving or at least damping down these conflicts, there still seems to be some tension among different groups in the Parish. Improvements in communication and cooperation among the various ministries are also needed. The parish profile that was drawn up some time ago has been quite helpful in developing a shared vision of the parish. This vision calls for increased care for older parishioners and greater emphasis on welcoming newcomers of all ages, but especially younger members, who will be the foundation for the future of the church. While good progress has been made, there is still a great deal to be done; in particular, the long-term financial stability of the church is not ensured, and this will remain our primary challenge. Bruce has stated that we have shown a great deal of trust in him, and we need to transfer that trust to the new rector. Finally, we need to ensure that the momentum that has been achieved is maintained as the transition to the new rector takes place. Jeff Greenfield, Mary Helman, and Cappy McMurtray participated in conducting the Mutual Ministry Review.

g. Interim Rector’s report (Bruce): things are going well in the parish. He views the Sunday School as a critical element in the health of the parish. He feels that not all conflicts have been resolved, but that considerable progress has been made. He stated that the next rector should not become “reactive” to old conflicts lingering among the parishioners. The Parish will need to organize an enthusiastic reception and celebration of the arrival of the next rector. The Vestry also noted that we will need the same kind of enthusiasm in organizing a reception to say goodbye to Bruce. Bruce noted that Ascension Day is a big deal and will be celebrated with jazz vespers on Thursday, 5/25 at 7:30. Pentecost is June 2. Youth Sunday is June 4, and the Parish Picnic takes place on June 11. There will also be a July 4th picnic. Advertisements are circulating for a replacement for Claire. The likely starting date for her replacement is July 31. It is a paid position with benefits. He asked that parishioners contact individuals who might be interested. He commented that John Morris had submitted documentation on the recently purchased Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) and that the Vestry should review and formally approve this documentation at the next meeting. Training on the use of the device has begun. There are new Preschool Board members, and they were approved unanimously. The Preschool is truly critical to the life and future of the church.