

DRAFT
St. Anne's Parish Vestry Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2009

Call to Order: 7.35 p.m.

In attendance: Rev. Charles Joy (Interim Rector), Andrew Carter, Philip Dowell, Peter Granger, John Langhorne, Jo McCleskey (Senior Warden), John Needham, John Shattuck, Jim Wilson, Eleanor Winsor, Denise Williams.
Apologies: Andrew Carter (arriving late) and David Lea.

Opening prayers by Rev. Joy

Minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2009:

There being no comments to the minutes of the last meeting, Jim moved that they be approved, seconded by John S. The motion was carried unanimously.

Matters arising:

Status of search for priest-in-charge

Jo confirmed that the most recent update of the parish profile had been agreed by the Bishop and Lindsay Ryland and that all is now set to prepare to interview interested candidates.

Lindsay Ryland had e-mailed two documents entitled "Caring for Clergy in the Calling Process" and "Interviewing in the Calling Process". These offer guidance in conducting the calling process. This material will be e-mailed to Vestry members by Philip.

Lindsay Ryland had offered to speak to the Vestry prior to the interviewing starting just to give some guidance on the best way to proceed. It was agreed that the offer should be accepted and that Jo should try to arrange for the discussion to take place prior to June 18 when Lindsay will be going away for two weeks. The target dates would be Monday/Tuesday June 15/16.

Rev. Joy mentioned that the interview should be more in the form of a discussion with the Vestry members trying to find out what they can about the candidate and vice versa and not a formal interview with the Vestry asking all the questions.

Parish Picnic

The Vestry registered a vote of thanks to Andrew for organizing the picnic and to his sons and to B. Maxwell and Bill Dickie for their great supporting effort.

Old Business

Stewardship and budget

Jo stated that the pledges received so far slightly exceeded \$90,000 but she did not have the exact figure from David to hand. She also advised that the insurance company had agreed to a payment of \$6,000 for the fire damage to the HVAC system at Christ Church.

Peter, in the absence of David, went briefly through the profit & loss account to the end of May. The remaining budget figure for the Rector's cash salary was shown as negative which was incorrect. Despite that the total expense shown is correct. He also commented that the money expended on Christian Education so far is running well behind budget so he will check with Andi Maxwell on her intentions in this respect for the balance of the year. He felt that, based on the current figures, the account should at least come out close to the budgeted loss of \$19,944.00. If the loss to the end of May was annualized a loss of \$18,500 would result. Lastly he pointed out that a substantial figure of \$26,400 had been budgeted for repairs & maintenance mainly to cover the repairs/renewal of the Christ Church HVAC system. With insurance having paid \$6,000 and the balance having been taken from other funds rather than from income, the finances for the current year look to be in satisfactory shape.

Regarding the future, Jo expressed concern that on present showing the Parish will not find it easy to pay for a new priest-in-charge. However, without a more permanent priest in the Parish, the situation is unlikely to improve and therefore any increments required to make up the agreed emoluments to the priest would have to be taken out of endowment funds. The Vestry agreed to this it being necessary to ensure that we get the right priest for this Parish. John N. stated that under no circumstances should the Parish try to cut the package agreed with the next priest because of financial problems.

Junior Warden's Report

Kevin Fletcher will mow the Rectory lawns on the terms of his previous contract for doing this work.

An access for the handicapped is being considered for St.John's. Jim has been in contact with Nate Brown who leads the Independent Resource Panel and who specializes in this sort of work. He will help both to suggest the best solution and with getting such planning permission as is necessary, particularly as VDOT is likely to have to be consulted.

Senior Warden's Report

Jo had received an e-mail from Pat Johnson saying that FEMA needs another map in connection with the prospective church hall for St.Stephen's. St.Stephen's would hold a White Elephant Sale at the church on June 20 in connection with the hall fund. Jo hopes that all will support the sale to the best of their abilities.

Jo reminded the meeting that Bill Cooper had asked to be relieved of his duties as co-coordinator of work with Habitat for Humanity and at the last meeting members had agreed to consider a replacement. John N. said that he was willing to take on the role for one year the only problem being the collection of refreshments from donors to be brought to the site on those occasions on which it was St.Anne's turn to do this as he lives so far from Scottsville.

It was agreed that John N. would replace Bill Cooper and that a local volunteer on the day would bring the donated refreshments to the site. John N. and Bill will work out a date for the change and John N.'s year would run from that date.

Jim voiced the opinion that the bulk of the congregation may well not be aware of the various outside activities of the Parish such as volunteering for Habitat, helping people through the Discretionary Fund and Outreach just to name a very few. In general the meeting agreed that this should be better circulated among the congregation and consideration will be given to the format and content.

Other Business

John N. expressed concern that a number of people who had been regular attendees at services seemed to have become noticeable by their absence. He had even heard that some had been attending another church. He was not aware of any reasons having been given other than in one case. Although it was accepted that people could attend any church they please, he thought that some polite inquiry of those involved should be made. There was general agreement on this but various thoughts on the most suitable timing given that there has been no permanent priest in the Parish for 15 months and that, in itself, is unsettling. Waiting until a new priest was in office seemed to be the best time to make contact. John S. felt that about 6 to 8 weeks was long enough to wait before inquiring. Denise had expressed similar sentiments at the last meeting and had been giving further thought to this matter.

Jo made the point that there was no reason why anyone should not feel free to contact such persons on the subject.

Peter stated that on a strictly personal basis he was dissatisfied with the greater Episcopal church and its national leadership who expected vestries strictly to follow the canons of the church which the leadership frequently breached. He had made his feelings known to Bishop Johnson who, himself, had not supported those breaches. John S. expressed similar sentiments.

Financial Reports

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had circulated a copy of the P & L report for February 2009. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Discretionary Fund

Rev. Joy reported that about 10 days previously he had paid an electricity bill for a Scottsville woman with two children whose husband had lost his job and who was in tears when Rev. Joy said he would help.

Outreach Fund

Bill Cooper had advised that the balance in this fund is \$4,757. Another \$137 is expected bringing the total to \$4,894.

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m. with Closing Prayers by Rev. Joy.

Respectfully submitted,
John Needham,
Register.