

FINAL
1-28-09 cjh

Immanuel Church, Highlands
Vestry Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2008

Vestry Members in Attendance: Fr. Kim Capwell (Presiding), Maria duPont, Craig Folkert (Sr. Warden), Phyllis Harvey, Laurie Hay (Jr. Warden), Carolyn Hendrix (Secretary), Byron Hobson, Simon Jeynes, Joe Stoeckle, Barb Volko, Kay Wack

Absent: Carl Burnam, Ryan Day, Connie Shultz,

Guests: David Blowman (Treasurer), Alan Dages, Ed Fielding

Opening Prayer

Fr. Kim opened with prayer.

Teaching

Fr. Kim brought up the topic of “change”...how we felt about it personally, and how we think the congregation as a whole might view change. Are we happy with where we are today, doing what we’re doing? It was generally agreed that change equals anxiety, and Simon mentioned the theory of the Implementation Dip where, when change is instituted, things tend to get worse before they get better. We discussed the need for Vestry members to be supportive to those for whom change is difficult.

Treasurer’s Report

David Blowman distributed a reorganized budget in which he returned to a line item breakout form which was generally felt to be easy to understand and much clearer than the previous format. Thus far, 72 pledging units have pledged \$169K for 2009, which surpasses the 2008 pledging by \$41K. The 2009 budget includes payment for the full Diocesan Acceptance, which we have not been able to pay in full for several years. The proposed transfer of \$140K from investment income to the operating fund represents less than 5% of the value of the fund (\$2.9M in November ‘08, down from \$4.2M in January ’08). Also, the outreach budget of \$16.5K represents 10% of 2007 Pledge and Plate. *Simon Jeynes moved that the treasurer’s report be accepted, Laurie Hay seconded, and all were in favor.* Fr. Kim requested that Vestry members review the proposed 2009 budget in detail and get any questions answered prior to the January meeting, at which time the budget will be discussed at length and hopefully approved.

Faith Center Update

Alan Dages brought forth the merger between Faith Center and Lutheran Community Services, for which the Vestry had previously expressed support. Laurie Hay reviewed the written resolution and felt that although our formal role is unclear, ICH is not a member of the Faith Center board, and they are just seeking our support of the merger. *Simon Jeynes moved that we accept the resolution, Barb Volko seconded, and all approved.*

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as written.

Transition/Institution

Plans are well underway for the Institution on January 17. Laurie Hay and Anna Mae Parshall are coordinating the hospitality, including hotel rooms for visiting clergy, visitor assistance, and parking. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with “Radical Hospitality,” please see Laurie or Anna Mae. Barb Volko and Vicky Anthos are coordinating the reception, which will consist of heavy hors d’oeuvres, desserts, coffee, and wine. They are requesting \$4K for food/beverage and staff to entertain 200 people. Fr. Kim said the budget might go as high as \$5K, but no more than that. *Craig Folkert moved to accept a catering budget of \$5K; Kay Wack seconded, all were in favor.*

Correspondence

Craig Folkert will respond to the note from Fletcher Lowe, thanking him for his kind words.

Rector’s Report

A date for the annual Parish Meeting was discussed. Bylaws state that it should be held “as soon as reasonable after Easter.” The date was set for **Sunday, April 26**, with the Vestry Retreat to take place on **Saturday, May 2**.

A Fundraising Policy is being discussed but hasn’t been formalized as yet.

Some of Fr. Kim’s activities over the past month:

- Hospital visitation to Eve English
- 4 committee meetings
- 5 pastoral visits
- 11 additional office meetings
- Emmanuel Dining Room
- 2 diocesan meetings, Parish Life Day
- Clergy Life Committee (membership requested by the Bishop)
- Delaware Ecumenical Council: worship service Jan 25 & week of prayer for Christian unity
- Installation of new copier
- Visit to Kentmere with choristers on Sun. Dec. 14
- 3 Fireside Chats, the last of which included 25 people (Sun. 12-21: “Spirit/Kingdom Living”)

Senior Warden’s Report

Craig wished to express appreciation to Jack Burnam and the choristers for their gift of song to residents of the Kentmere Nursing Care Center on Sunday, Dec. 14. Their visit was truly appreciated by the residents and staff.

Junior Warden's Report

None

Parish Statistics Report

Kay presented this month's report. Of note, Sunday attendance through the end of November appears to be up over that of 2007.

Ministry Reports

Communications: Byron Hobson is making preliminary plans for resurrecting the Communications Ministry, which may include improvements to the web site, postcards, and a presence on Facebook. He will present his ideas at a future Vestry meeting. Fr. Kim felt that at least 3 other people need to be involved in the ministry; if anyone is interested, please see Byron.

Parish Life

Epiphany Dinner: Thanks to Ted Stipa, plans are well underway for the Soup/Stew/ Chowder dinner to be held on Tuesday, Jan. 6. Dinners/desserts going forward will take place 6 times per year and will center around Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Supper), Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day, Desserts with Bach, All Saints' Day, and Epiphany.

Old/New Business

Chairs: Laurie mentioned that with the gift of 150 'new' chairs from the Radisson Hotel , we now have 'old' chairs which should be sent on to someone else. In the meantime, Joe Stoeckle will move them to the basement.

Massages: Byron Hobson, licensed massage therapist, would like to discuss the possibility of offering massages to parishioners after Sunday services. This will be discussed at the January meeting.

The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for Jan. 21, 2009. We closed with the Lord's Prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn J. Hendrix