

FINAL

5-20-09 cjh

**Immanuel Church, Highlands
Vestry Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2009**

Vestry Members Present: Fr. Kim Capwell (presiding), Maria duPont, Craig Folkert (Senior Warden), Phyllis Harvey, Laurie Hay (Junior Warden), Carolyn Hendrix (Secretary), Byron Hobson, Simon Jeynes, Connie Shultz, Barb Volko, Kay Wack

Guests: David Blowman (Treasurer), Ed Fielding, Bob Penneys, Teresa Pentoney

Vestry Members Absent: Carl Burnam, Ryan Day, Joe Stoeckle

Opening Prayer, Updates, Additional Agenda Items

Fr. Kim opened with prayer, and personal updates were shared. Additional agenda items were requested; there were none.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the March meeting were approved as amended.

Finance Report

Monthly report: David Blowman presented the monthly report. He stated that offerings and contributions are up in 2009 thus far. An issue that may be a topic for discussion at the Annual Meeting is the fact that the endowment has dropped in value to \$2.8 million. He noted that this does not jeopardize our commitments. Ultimately, the goal would be to rely on ourselves and not the endowment for the operating budget. The current investment strategy is 50% stocks and 50% bonds. There is enough stability currently to cover the commitments from the Lunger bequest. At the next Finance Ministry meeting, they will be looking at the structure of the capital budget, creating one that is separate from the operating budget. *A motion to approve the Treasurers Report was made by Laurie Hay and seconded by Barb Volko. The motion carried.*

Correspondence

None

Reports and Vestry Action

Rector's Report:

Fr. Kim reported on pastoral and counseling meetings, home and hospital visits, and special services held during the preceding month, including:

- 3 pastoral meetings
- 3 staff meetings
- 2 meetings with wardens
- 3 special services, including the recognition of Fr. Kerr as Emeritus Rector and the Holy Week services
- 3 home visits
- 4 Diocesan meetings
- New Castle clergy gathering
- Presiding Bishop's visitation at the Cathedral on the Tuesday of Holy Week

- Special Outreach meeting with Sue Welles, Connie Shultz, the wardens, and Bill Perkins re unmet needs in the Wilmington area. Fr. Kim distributed the Friendship House strategic plan (Appendix A).

Pastoral Concerns

None

Holy Week Debriefing

- Attendance for Holy Week services was discussed. Attendance was generally up, with the exception of the 5:30 services on Monday and Tuesday and the 7:30 service on Wednesday. Numbers are as follows:

	2009	2008
Maundy Thursday	110	96
Stations of the Cross	61	50
Good Friday	78	62
Vigil	81	64
Easter	194	140

Comments re services were requested:

Palm Sunday

- Connie mentioned that we ran short of palms. Fr. Kim mentioned that he had a supplier he has been using for years that will change to for next year.
- The procession up Riverside was discussed, including that it was hard to hear, and there was some confusion as to when to start walking. Fr. Kim suggested that next year we might double the number of greeters to help people along. He also mentioned that next year we might consider walking down 17th Street instead of up Riverview, since Nancy Loux no longer lives in the house on the corner. Kay felt that it would make more of a statement to process down a busier street.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

- Not many people attended, but Fr. Kim felt the services were meaningful to those who did.

Maundy Thursday

- The foot washing was discussed. Fr. Kim requested that it be done the way it was this year (with only two people getting feet washed) in order not to have a big break in the liturgy. Some argued that the foot washing was the liturgy. Fr. Kim allowed that we might consider a compromise next year between the way we did it this year and the “free for all” of former years.
- Teresa and Barb mentioned that they made way too much soup this year and that next year people should be requested to bring containers to take some home.
- Craig wondered if the service could be done anywhere but in the basement, as the acoustics are bad and the lighting is horrible. It was mentioned that there have been events downstairs with small twinkling lights that have been very nice. The upshot was that the space logistics need to be rethought next year.
- All agreed that the stripping of the altar was very powerful and that the Altar Guild did a very efficient job.

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross

- After some discussion, Fr. Kim stated that since we have used the same liturgy for some years now, we might consider doing something a little different next year.

- Laurie asked that care be taken when asking for participants...not all children were asked, and some felt left out.
- Fr. Kim felt that having the participants in costume would add much power to the service, and that we might consider this next year.

Good Friday: 7:30 service

- All agreed that this was a very moving service.

Holy Saturday

- Small attendance

Vigil

- Very moving.
- The timing of the Vigil was discussed extensively. Fr. Kim said that in all his experience, he has never seen it done the way Immanuel does it; having it early in the morning is very atypical (8 pm on Saturday evening is much more common). He feels that the service(s) should be designed to attract as many new people as possible, and that we miss a good opportunity to attract new folks to our church on Easter Sunday by having services so early. Byron very eloquently expressed that we should celebrate what makes us different and that there is really nothing to compare with seeing the stained glass windows brighten as the sun comes up on Easter morning. It was felt that if we advertise, we may see some new folks who are looking for something a little different. (There was no advertising done this year.)

Easter 7:30 service and breakfast

- Simon expressed his appreciation for the music and the thoughtful way it supported the celebration.
- Laurie summarized the breakfast logistics. Plenty of people signed up to cook, but no one signed up to clean up. However, there were many who pitched in to make light work of the clean-up.

Kay Benson

Fr. Kim announced with pleasure that Kay Benson (formerly Scobell) had requested and been approved to return to Immanuel Highlands as priest in residence.

Bill Perkins

Fr. Kim reminded the Vestry that Bill Perkins would be preaching at both services on Sunday, April 19, and would be conducting the adult education hour which would start at 9 AM instead of 9:15.

Safe Church Training

A safe church training workshop will be held on Saturday, May 16, from 9 AM – 3 PM at Trinity on Pennsylvania Avenue, conducted by our very own Fr. Kim. He mentioned that this was highly recommended for anyone working with youth in the parish and that there was a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Foyer.

Vestry Duty

Fr. Kim proposed to the Vestry that there be vestry member 'on call' every Sunday, for both services, to identify and follow up on any newcomers and to give parishioners (especially the 8 o'clock attendees) a point of contact for questions, concerns, etc. This was generally felt to be a good idea.

Sr. Warden's Report

None

Jr. Warden's Report

Laurie mentioned that Carl Burnam had expressed a wish to make the physical facilities more 'green,' which coincided with several other related issues including coffee hour supplies and Fr. Kim's interest in more recycling by the church. He said that it would be nice to have a person or two to keep us accountable in this regard and that a lot more could be done than we're doing now.

Secretary's Report

Kay distributed her report. The attendance numbers looked a little strange, and Kay said she would recheck them.

Vestry Retreat: The location of the Vestry retreat, scheduled for Saturday, May 2, was discussed. Some felt it would be better to go "off campus" (such as to Christ Church), while others felt that it would be good to have discussions in our own sacred space. Fr. Kim will discuss with the wardens.

Ministry Area Reports

- Simon asked about progress with recruitment for the Director of Christian Education position. Fr. Kim has a call into the Bishop to look at recent seminary graduates who might be interested. Fr. Kim will follow up with the wardens.
- It was agreed that a Christian Education Ministry meeting needs to be scheduled soon.
- Joe Stoeckle will be stepping down as chair of the Property Ministry as of the Annual Meeting on April 26. No one has yet stepped up to take his place.
- Fr. Kim reported that the stained glass project was moving forward and that he hoped to have a recommendation to present at the next vestry meeting.

Parish Life

Annual Meeting: Scheduled for Sunday, April 26.

- Ken Germain will be coordinating the vote count.
- The new vestry will meet on Monday, April 27, to elect officers.
- Kay is still missing four ministry reports.

Parish Picnic

- Tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 14, pending a response back from the park
- Craig and Fr. Kim will organize

The next meeting of the Vestry is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn J. Hendrix
Secretary