

St. Stephen's Vestry Minutes

September 13, 2016

Attendees: Mo. Susan Anslow Williams, Don Ingersoll, Silvia Karlsson, Ken Fuhr, Kathy DeCiantis, Katy Allen, Alice Moss, Norma Ross, Richard Kenefic, Margie Armstrong, Paul Hardy, Roy Waters, Paula Somerville

Opening: Senior Warden Don Ingersoll called the meeting to order at 7:03, members recounted important events/issues in their lives over the summer.

Prayer: Richard Kenefic led us in a prayer.

Bible Study: Mo. Susan led us in discussion of a passage from 2 Corinthians with help of handout. We all are gifted, God doesn't rank importance of gifts, we must not think that our gift is unworthy to share. It is our duty to share them for the common good: something has come to our lives, we are no longer pagan, and we must use the gifts given to us by the Spirit. As a Vestry we are cheerleaders for these efforts.

Rector's Report: Summer worship and vacations went smoothly. Visit to Church of the Messiah highlighted adaptability of Episcopal Church service and ministry (altar call, potluck fellowship, bicycle rebuilding/rental). They will accept old cables and computers for use in their training programs.

Strategic / Generative Topics: review of ABCD (Asset-Based Community Development) report from Vestry retreat. How can we use the assets which indicate a parishioner/member has a connection in the community (service clubs, alumni)?

Next steps: Ushers distribute cards in bulletins. Linda Pierce did a survey in the 90s, can we work off that? Goal is to weave the fabric of our congregation make personal and ministry connections. Learn professions/expertise include youth and their talents in the survey. Networking. Make sure communicate well about the opportunities here: use email, flyers, website, promotion in the Witness, create a FB event, signups. Must not appear as a marketplace selling events but as part of our vision.

Consider our demographics when developing programs: John Pavik and Mo. Susan will visit nursing home for a regular musical service, families with young children are a big demographic, expect that people will drive to find us, not a walk-in center. People come to be fed and then we send them out to minister with their connections. "Make the

kingdom of God visible in the world.” How can St. Stephen’s support the causes that are meaningful for the parishioners? We need to know what is important to you all.

Generosity: Vestry recognizes many are doing a lot already, asking them to take on new activities in the same way we ask that we step up contributions in the plate.

Consent calendar: Roy moves to approve minutes as corrected, Kathy seconded, carried without dissent.

Committee updates:

Financial: big YTD deficit, though Welcome Back Sunday was well-attended, interested in knowing what e-giving weekly/monthly figures add to the plate, Don will look into. Committee meets 9/21 and will report to Vestry in October.

Building/Grounds: A/C replaced thanks to Roy and buildings and grounds committee. Thanks to Pat Wojas who has replaced many lights, due to budget concerns and spending on A/C may hold off on sidewalk replacement? Safety issue so will go ahead with repairs

Outreach: Is there any guidance about how annual budget projections should temper spending?

Worship: June-Sept, need to recruit Eucharistic Ministers, honored acolytes with engraved crosses at Welcome Back Sunday, ushers should be recognized, seasonal bulletin will be recycled from summer, will continue for fall. Roy asked for clarification of Christmas Day and New Year’s Day services which are on a Sunday. One 10AM service will be held. Xmas Eve will be 5PM and 10PM services.

Ongoing project updates:

New Renters: Tiny Tunes (mother child music program) twice a week, shall we put up a calendar and announcements in the choir room? let them know we are available as a concert venue; Persian lessons (Saturday afternoons)

Custodian: Advanced Facility Services (Jared Olafsky-owner/oversight, on Adams Road in Birmingham, Chris will be our assigned cleaner), He has been hired and we are awaiting background check. Jared will contract with snow removal company. Custodial care arranged after SOS in time for Sunday School, then further care after Sunday service.

Upcoming events: Connection Sunday 9/18 Seminars Gretchen-FB, Ken-website, Mo. Susan-lpad use, Kris-android connecting to wireless network, Norma-senior moments; Concert on 9/23 at 7:30 “Evening with Richard Strauss, \$12;” SOS: Aditya neighborhood resident will be doing community service nightly while the shelter is here; Underground Railroad Adult Faith trip 10/8, departure at 9:30 from St. Stephen’s \$10 adults \$8 youth/senior, make check payable to St. Stephen’s (with memo “for Underground Railroad”) by 10/2. Tom Hawkins will replace Mo. Susan weekend of 10/8-9 as she travels to parents’ week at Yale.

Closing prayer: Led by Mo. Susan

Adjourned: 9:09p.m.

Action Taken Between Meetings

At its September 13, 2016 meeting, the Vestry discussed the possibility of deferring nonessential [discretionary] spending due to the size of the budget deficit through August. Instead of acting, the Vestry decided to await a full financial evaluation by and recommendation from the Finance Committee. After receiving the committee’s report:

Don Ingersoll moved, seconded by Silvia Karlsson, that the Vestry hereby accepts the Finance Committee’s recommendation to defer nonessential spending for the remainder of 2016, unless our revenue and expense situation improves sufficiently to avoid a deficit.

If approved, Vestry liaisons should inform their mission area leaders and participants of this action. The Senior Warden will inform the congregation.

The finance committee is hereby asked to continue to monitor and report on the parish’s ongoing financial status, and to recommend any adjustment to this action as may become reasonable.

Motion carried via email voting eleven affirmative, one dissent.