

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Minutes

January 9<sup>th</sup> ,2018

In attendance: Mother Susan, Katy Allen, Scott Armstrong, Alan Giles, Jackie Ingersoll, Alice Moss, Rob Redmer, Norma Ross, Paula Somerville, Karol Sprague, Roy Waters, and Justin Wojas. Absent: Richard Kenefic,

**I. Opening**

A. The monthly Vestry meeting of St Stephen's Episcopal Church, held on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, was called to order by the Senior Warden, Alice Moss at 7:05PM.

B. Alice opened the meeting with prayer and led a short lesson and a scripture reading.

C. Rector's monthly report: Briefly: Mother Susan reported that while the Christmas season was busy, winter weather caused attendance to be somewhat smaller. We may consider restructuring our holiday services next year. The Twelfth Night party was a success and the Vestry thanks all the volunteers for a job well done. Mother Susan is continuing to work on her professional goals. The Strategic Planning Oversight Committee has sponsored all the Holy Conversation groups. They will still accept and welcome individual comments. There is a roof leak down the middle aisle. Maintenance will look into it.

Full copy of the Report is attached.

**II. Regular Business**

A. December minutes approved. Thanks to Katie for taking and submitting those.

B. Financial report was given by Jim Trask. Revenue was over- budget. The best year ever. \$27, 847.00 surplus. We have changed software accounting systems and are now using Realm for a \$200 monthly savings with very little reduction of functions. Our office administrator, Jacki Mudrich will use a 403B pension plan which is a change from Cathy Hoffman who had a 636 plan. St Stephen's will continue to promote credit card and automatic bank withdrawal for pledges.

Jim will adjust the budget when information arrives. He feels very optimistic about the coming year. The 2018 budget was passed.

**III. New Business**

A. Pat Wojas joined us to report for the Maintenance Committee. In an effort to decrease the cost of snow removal and salting Pat asked that we consider limiting building use to fewer days. This will also cut the heating bill. Another solution might be to only maintain half the parking lot and use only the front door. That will reduce the cost of sidewalk and parking lot maintenance. These ideas are under consideration.

B. Amending by-laws. Alice suggested that we vote to amend Article II, section 2. which states that " These fourteen members will consist of twelve adult members and two youth members." The suggestion to amend is to eliminate the youth members and reduce the adult number to nine. Many churches of St. Stephen's size operate with nine members and there have not been youth on vestry for several

years. The amendment also requests eliminating paragraph three which refers mostly to the youth. Short discussion followed. Scott moved to present the amendment at annual meeting. Paula seconded it. Motion passed.

#### **IV. Strategic/Mission**

A. Mother Susan read a letter from the Bishop announcing his 2018 retirement.

Helen Giles is compiling the results from the Holy Conversations

B. We will elect three new members this year, bringing the number to 11. Corrine Fragnoli and Jacki Ingersoll will run. Mother Susan reminded us to continue asking for candidates as we need one more on the slate.

C. Committee heads should send a written report to Jacki Mudrich for publication in the annual meeting packet. Let her know if a power point is needed.

#### **V. Coming events**

A. St John's pantry is Saturday 13 at 9 AM and needs volunteers. Annual meeting is Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>. The Vestry retreat is Friday, Feb 16. Saturday Feb 16 is at the Cathedral. There will be no Tuesday evening meeting in February.

**VI.** Scott stated that the sound system is inadequate and needs immediate attention. Justin explained the problem is not with equipment but the placement of equipment and will look into it.

Scott is concerned about the poor maintenance of the church and Sunday school rooms and wants a sexton on staff. We will gather comments and complaints and first address our current free-lance maintenance workers.

#### **VII. Closing**

Alice closed with a prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 8:58.

Submitted by Karol Sprague, Clerk