

Grace Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

February 21, 2018

Present:

Jane Crane
Lynette Baisch
Julie Shryock

Deborah Schenk
Martin Garthwaite
Chuck Bombardier

Don Warkentin
Jan Ringo

Absent:

Tom Tyner
Patty Robinson

The meeting was opened at 7:00pm. As there was not a priest at the meeting there was no Eucharist.

Spirit

Don introduced the plan to transition from Eucharist to the business of the meeting with a reflection. Tom was not present to present the planned reflection of the evening.

Resources

A motion was made to approve the minutes as written for the Vestry meeting on January 18, 2018. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Deborah distributed year-end and January 2018 financial reports via email prior to the meeting. There was opportunity for questions and comments. Don requested clarification about plate vs. pledge income.

Deborah initiated discussion about Wren's housing allowance. The allowance may be amended as needed. The housing allowance must be reviewed and ratified by the Vestry on an annual basis.

Resolution: The Vestry hereby designates \$30,000 of the salary paid to the Rev. Wren Blessing in 2018 as a housing allowance.

A motion was made to adopt the Resolution as stated. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Deborah introduced discussion regarding allocation of the 2017 budget surplus. The Finance Committee has recommended that the entire surplus be allocated to the Capital Improvement Reserves. The belief is that the Operating Reserves fund currently contains sufficient funds and that the more pressing needs are with anticipated expenses for replacement and repairs for the aging building.

Discussion followed. It was clarified that the Reserves are Vestry discretionary funds so allocation of the surplus to Capital Improvements does not necessarily preclude the use of the monies for other purposes.

Julie asked the Vestry to consider the previously discussed objective of using fundraisers to help fund special projects rather than operating expenses. She suggested that some of the 2017 surplus could be used to reduce the fundraising target for 2018 to help take pressure off those responsible. Discussion followed. Vestry members expressed support for Julie's comments but there were reservations about tackling such a big topic at this time. It was decided to commit to discussing the idea in 2018.

Chuck presented the idea of creating a "parking lot" for important topics to be discussed in the future along with a way of making sure they are placed on future Vestry meeting agendas.

As the Capital Improvements Reserves is a fund over which the Vestry has complete discretion there was general agreement that the surplus could be allocated there. If there was a Vestry decision later to help fund, for example, outreach/communication/fundraising the monies could be moved.

A motion was made to move all of the 2017 budget surplus money to the Capital Improvements Reserve. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Deborah presented details about the proposed budget amendment for the Resurreccion Youth program. The proposal is to increase Julie Davis' hours to include hours for the Resurreccion Program. After discussion the Vestry agreed that the proposed change was necessary.

A motion was made to amend the 2018 budget to increase Julie Davis' hours to cover ten months instead of nine. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

A motion was made for the Vestry to adopt the amended budget for 2018 as attached. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Washington State non-profit filing agreement:

Tom completed an agreement with Bill Harper to lead the Youth Pilgrimage. Due to Tom's absence this will be discussed at the next Vestry meeting.

Landscape Committee:

Jane asked Martin about the status of the Landscape Committee. It is currently disbanded. Jane envisions the committee as a place to discuss artistic vision and strategy and as a decision making body. The Committee would then be charged to find workers to accomplish various tasks. Martin would like Committee members to also participate in the actual labor. In addition, Don suggested tapping youth of the Parish as workers. Martin said he plans to re-activate the committee.

Direction and Coordination

Leadership Position Needs for the Coming Year:

Don presented the current status of leadership recruiting. All candidates have been identified that will require election at the Annual Meeting March 11, 2018. He stressed that Grace is in a fortunate position because several leaders whose terms would have expired after 2017 have expressed a willingness to continue their service through 2018. This stability will allow an experienced leadership team to focus in 2018 on issues of transition and new direction. Mark Kruse will serve an additional few months to allow Wren to give input in identifying the next leader for his position (Adult Faith Formation). The last remaining open position for the Endowment Board has been filled and all candidates for the Diocesan Convention have been identified.

Don explained that Vestry, Endowment Board, Diocesan Convention delegates need to be nominated and elected at Annual Meetings. Candidates for PMC positions are not under the same Diocesan requirements so filling those positions allows for more flexibility. All PMC positions are filled for 2018.

2019 Annual Giving Campaign Chairs:

Julie strenuously requested Vestry assistance in identifying candidates to manage the 2019 AG Campaign. She indicated that she would be willing to provide advice and counsel but feels new leadership is essential. Don added that an important task for the 2018 Vestry will be to develop and implement a plan to allow current leadership to train their successors.

Protocols for New Idea/Activities:

Jane announced that the current protocol for obtaining approval for new ideas, activities or other calendar items that involve the Parish requires notification of the appropriate PMC leadership, the Rector, and any Staff that may need to be involved.

Policy for Pet Animals at Grace:

Jane reported that the Vestry had been requested to develop a policy regarding pet animals on Grace property. Discussion followed including the need to allow service animals and whether to allow exceptions for special occasions (St. Francis Blessing Day, staff emergency needs).

A motion was made that Grace would adopt a pet-free policy. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Lynette offered to draft a policy to be ratified at the next Vestry meeting.

Leadership Retreat Planning and Update:

Don has been charged with facilitating the Leadership Retreat planning. Don has been communicating regularly with Wren over the past month. The plan is for the Wardens and Don to meet with Wren on March 5, 2018 to develop a detailed agenda for the Leadership Retreat. Don outlined some ideas about how the Retreat may be structured. He said it may include informal socializing, presentations by Wren, brief verbal reports by each member of Leadership about their specific areas of ministry, and perhaps a workshop to help identify key priorities for 2018.

Other suggestions included giving Wren more time to outline her thoughts regarding direction and priorities. It was also suggested that some time with Faith Formation activities would be welcome. The identification of a 2018 theme for Grace was suggested as another objective. These ideas will be included in the discussion with Wren on March 5th.

Wren Transition:

Wren has closed the sale of her house in Montana and is en route. She is scheduled to arrive tomorrow February 22, 2018. Her first official day at Grace is March 1, 2018 and her first Sunday will be March 4, 2018. Her installation is scheduled for May 31,2018.

Vestry Priorities for 2018:

Jane began a discussion about identifying Vestry priorities for 2018. Some time may be provided at the Leadership Retreat for discussion. Jane requested that Vestry members send Jane and Tom suggestions about what to include as priorities.

The meeting was adjourned early at 8:30 pm because of the weather and concerns about safe travel.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Ringo, clerk

