

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2008

Vestry members in attendance: Fr. Michael Richardson, Mike Shoemaker, Laurie Gough, Lucy Lord, Brandon Stewart, Clay Hubbs, Laurie Landry, Jennifer Tinsley, Kandy Halstead, Bev Van Zandt, Whit Greene

Clerk: Laurie Landry

Documents disseminated: Sept 16 Vestry Minutes (by e-mail), meeting agenda, St. Matthew's Financial Dashboard as of Sept 30 2008 (Bev Van Zandt), St. Matthew's Ministry Plan – 2009 (Financial Committee).

7:13 pm, Fr. Michael opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Sept. Minutes. Need to strike the first bullet about the Bishop's visit. He will only be visiting St. Matt's in Sept. 09. Laurie G. moved to approve the minutes as amended above. Motion passed.

2. Rector's Report, Fr. Michael.

- From the Diocesan Convention, a new company is approved for doing background checks. It will be possible to set up billing from this company without use of a credit card. We still need to have this done for all staff and people who work with children on a regular basis (does not include all Sunday School teachers or volunteers). Also recommended for people who handle money for the church (we probably will not do this at this time) and for people who drive kids/youth (to include DMV check).
- We now have a credit card set up for use when needed.
- Annual meeting set for Nov 9 at 9:30, incorporated into the start of the second service. We will need to find someone to take notes at this meeting because Laurie L. will not be there.

3. Sr. Warden's Report, Kandy H.

- Diocesan Reports & Highlights – Key message from the Bishop that we continue to follow the vision to be a mission-shaped church.
- Reports from the Office for Faith Formation: Camp & Conference Task Force, Evangelism, the "More Than a Match" offer by the CO Episcopal Foundation raised \$27K for a water project in Haiti, Jubilee Ministries reports, also many workshops available and attended by our delegates.
- Legislative Work: tightening consistency among canons, clarifying relationships, concern for the well-being of immigrants, the 'mission-

shaped' and 'balanced' budgets, and a balanced budget of 1.9 mil adopted at the meeting.

- Workshop: Evangelism, growing the Episcopal Church to meet the needs in our communities, the world. The Mission-shaped Church presented by Canon Lou Blanchard; Kandy brought back some ideas we can work on at St. Matt's.
 - Workshop: Stewardship of Climate. Ensuring Environmental Sustainability, reducing our carbon footprint, an interactive workshop and info available online.
 - Workshop – Hospital and Nursing Homes (Bev attended). Focus on compassionate management.
 - Workshop – Reconciliation inspired by the Psalms (Laurie G. attended).
 - Seminar on Youth groups and camps – (Whit and Rob Meyers attended)
 - Workshop on Licensed Ministries, using our lay persons to meet the needs of the community in appropriate ways (Kandy attended).
4. Vision Quest Revisited – in the works by Kandy and other Vestry members; goal is to report out at the Annual Meeting.
 5. Report on Vestry Candidates. (Kandy and the Vestry Search Committee). Firm acceptance pending by candidates at the time of the Vestry meeting. The Search Committee will proceed to get confirmed answers from three proposed candidates as soon as possible. If needed, the Committee will expand the search to ensure the calling of new prospective candidates. The candidates need to be announced to the congregation and confirmed before the Annual Meeting Nov 9.
 - 6. Laurie Gough moved to nominate Whit Greene as Junior Warden for 2009. Motion passed.**
 7. December Fellowship Breakfast (Jennifer Tinsley). The Vestry and Hearts and Hands Outreach Committee will be co-hosting the Dec. Fellowship breakfast. Jennifer is coordinating. Outreach will also use this event to publicize the holiday giving programs.
 8. Music and worship.

About \$23k has been collected so far for the organ and flooring project, not enough to go ahead with the plan to have this installed by someone else. We discussed the possibility of doing the work ourselves, which would allow us to start sooner and be completed by Christmas. Whit said that he would ask people who expressed interest in this if they would be willing and able to do the flooring installation ourselves. It was suggested also that wood floor distributors might be willing to give a lower bid at this time due to the changing economic situation.

Agreed to put an announcement in the bulletin about this, along with an update on where we are with funds.

9. Newcomers. The committee met the previous week, with the goal of expanding our vision and re-energizing the Newcomer's program. A Newcomer's wine and cheese social is set for Friday Nov 21 at 7 pm.

10. Financial Dashboard, Bev Van Zandt

- At this point in the year, we are about \$25K behind in pledge revenue.
- The BBQ netted about \$4,900.

11. Mission Plan for 2009, Mike Shoemaker and Finance Committee.

- Mike presented the 2009 Mission Plan as proposed by the Finance Committee in detail, with several points asked and addressed concerning proposed expenses and income from pledges.
 - Concepts to be explored include increasing revenues through growth, outside fundraising, and stewardship, as well as potential operating cost reductions
- The Finance Committee recommended increasing St. Matthew's Diocesan assessment from 8.0% to 9.0% for 2009
 - 10% of unrestricted plate and pledge is the Diocesan required assessment
 - An increase of 1% was considered as a way to build a bridge to meeting this requirement
- The Finance Committee recommended a 4.5% increase for 2009 for all St. Matthew's staff, in keeping with the overall Consumer Price Index increase
 - Staff include the rector, parish secretary, and music department
 - Kandy provided Diocesan clergy compensation guidelines that coincide with the National Church
 - Current rector compensation is 10% short for an experienced rector at a church of our size; 4.8% of this is the recommended Diocesan cost-of-living increase for 2009
 - The Vestry will revisit the clergy compensation shortfall as part of the vision for 2010
- **Mike S. moved to increase all staff salary by 4.5% for the 2009 fiscal year. Seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.**
- **Clay H. moved to accept the Ministry Plan for 2009 as presented by the Finance Committee. Seconded. Discussion.**
 - **Laurie L. moved to amend the motion to change the Diocesan pledge to 8.5 %, increasing it by 0.5% instead of by 1%. Seconded. Motion to amend Clay's motion passed.**

- **Call to vote on the amended motion to accept the Mission Plan for 2009 as proposed by the Financial Committee except changing the Diocesan pledge to 8.5%. Motion passed.**

12. Outreach Spending Recommendations for the Quarter. Kandy Halstead. The Hearts and Hands Committee recommends the following in giving for this quarter:

- \$250 to the Beyond Poverty Project, to support business development in two small towns in Guatemala.
- Remaining funds for the quarter to be divided equally among the following three programs: the Colorado Haiti Project, Habitat for Humanity, and Women and Families in Crisis Center.
- **Kandy H. moved that we distribute the outreach funds as requested by the Hearts and Hands Committee. Motion passed.**

13. **Lucy L. moved to adjourn. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 pm.**