

**Vestry Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, February 28, 2013  
Rector's Study

—  
Present: The Reverend Patricia Rome Robertson, presiding; Maude March, Nancy McCormick, Phyllis Partridge.

By phone: Jackie Lowe, James Clunan, and Stephen Mahoney

By Skype: Arthur Keller and Donald Graves

The Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson opened with silence and prayer at 4:02 pm

Part II Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times was discussed.

The Leader's Functioning was discussed:

- Some thought it a bit overdone being compared to body parts and ailments.
- The questions on page 72 were liked.
- Our church doesn't seem to have the problems addressed in this book
- The parish did have the problems in the past but have overcome them
- Things are easier when you have organized leadership and boundaries as we have had with Patricia.
- This may be useful during the interview process.
- p. 75 new situations and change are dovetailing with some of the feedback we got on survey results.
- Many people in our congregation are not always Episcopalians
- The book makes a lot of sense and is a big help.
- The summaries at the end of the chapters are helpful.
- It helps to understand our own anxiety. This way, one doesn't infect the system with their anxiety.
- Think about some of Patricia's work as having to do with inoculating the parish
- The parishioners can have an impact.
- Think before reacting. Then you can deal with the problem.
- Some of the bullets on page 86 have been seen in our parish, more in the seasonal parishioners than year round parishioners. (an example: People who function in a "me" only manner.)
- You can regulate your own behavior; ones behavior affects the whole system.
- The change really part really is like our parish. Those who come first accept change the least.
- Some people say this is a hard parish; Patricia would say it is a complicated parish.
- There is massive change early in the 21 century and we need to listen to what God is calling us to do.
- There is a unique nature to our parish community with seasonal and year round parishioners.

Part III will be discussed at the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, The Leader's Challenges. Think of yourself as the leader as you read this book. Your steady presence and ability to lead has a significant impact.

### **Approval of January 10, 2013 Minutes:**

A motion to accept the January minutes was made by Donald Graves and seconded by Nancy McCormick. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Business Agenda:**

There was a short discussion regarding the financial report.

A motion to approve the financial report was made by Jackie Lowe and seconded by Donald Graves. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a question if there was a budget for the search process. The Discernment committee will figure out a budget for this. Maude will go over the last search budget and use as a guideline. Leadership funds will be used for the search.

### **Name that Endowment Fund!**

Patricia reported on the documents that she found when this fund was set up. Copies were provided for the vestry members. There is a plaque at St. Mary's by-the-Sea with thanks for Bishop Doane. A Memorial Endowment Fund Was set up to honor Bishop Doane in 1920. It was discussed naming it the Founders Fund and a discussion ensued. No other plaques at St. Mary's by-the-Sea reflect any endowments.

Arthur recommended we change and read the following:

#### *Endowment Fund Name Change*

*I move that the name "The Endowment Fund" be changed to "The Bishop William Croswell Doane Fund," to be called the "Bishop Doane Fund" to honor his founding of the Parish, noting that the origins of the present day Endowment Fund includes money donated in his name, as well as in the name of Alice Smith, and others not specifically named but to whom the Parish is most grateful.*

A motion to approve the change was made by Arthur Keller and seconded by Maude March. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Update on Pledges:**

Patricia reported the pledges are currently at \$156,000, with 115 members pledging for 2013. The total in 2012 was \$173,000. There are outstanding pledges of \$13,000 for 2012. Some of these have started to come in.

### **Summer issues and scheduling**

Patricia asked if the vestry would like a supply priest for the first two Sundays in June. She informed the vestry the moving van would be arriving Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a discussion that the vestry would like supply priests for the first two Sundays in June.

Another concern is who the organist will be for St. Mary's by-the-Sea in July and August. Peter Vaux is working hard on getting this issue taken care of.

At our last meeting, Linda Lewis suggested that Patricia consider moving to SMBTS on Memorial Day weekend, having one service at 9:00 AM. She is proposing that we do that and

then have the second part of the annual meeting before Vickie Wiederkehr will do a good-by service, all in the church.

There was a discussion on continuing with one service year round. It is felt that this would not be beneficial to parishioners to only have one service. Two services give parishioners more flexibility to attend worship. The vestry agreed it was best to keep things as they have been in the past with worship at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM while worshipping at St. Mary's by-the-Sea. Two services will start the first Sunday in June (June 2<sup>nd</sup>).

The Parish will continue to hold Joint Worship at St. Jude's Church at 10:00 AM the last Sunday of June.

### **Nominating Committee report**

There was a discussion on the recommendations for people to serve on the vestry. It is felt that it would be beneficial to have one vestry member from St. Jude. The Committee is in the process of asking folks to serve.

### **Ongoing Transition Efforts:**

*Community Holy Conversation updates:*

Donald Graves, Nancy Ho and Marsha Planting are taking part in the Holy Conversations. One more person on the vestry would be helpful to take part. Patricia asked James Clunan if he would like to take part. He is willing to look at the materials and may be a member. The focus is engaging in mission in the community. (Page 75 in Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times)

*Reflections on Conversation with Vicki Wiederkehr – next steps:*

Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> was mostly about the First phase of process. Arthur said that he would like a shorter process than 6-9 months with a TPIC, and would like a list of rectors by the end of August, sooner than later. There will be an opportunity to talk with Vickie March 24<sup>th</sup> about what is going to happen. We need to make sure the committee stays on top of the process and doesn't let the process become too long.

On the Survey: It is important to remember what you see on a survey is what you see about the people who are really invested in this congregation. The younger people in the parish locally have filled out the survey but maybe not many of the younger seasonal have done it. House church is focusing on young families. If you want to bring young adults into the parish, we need to go where the people are. The survey is fabulous information. Almost half of the parish has filled out the survey. Some of the bar graphs are deceptive, they show the longest graph is the highest and 11 and 18 are not that way... should be the shortest.

### **Search Committee:**

Peter Vaux is working on developing a web page. Donald Graves agreed to work on this with Peter.

### **Vestry retreat:**

The vestry retreat is scheduled for June 8, 2013, at the Maine Sea Coast Mission, From 9 am to 3 pm. Scott Planting will be asked to be the facilitator. Maude March will check with Scott.

### **Rector's Report:**

*Lenten attendance/participation:*

Attendance has been very small. It was decided not to have the Wednesday soup and class.

**Parochial report:**

The Parochial report is finished and requires the vestry approval. Patricia explained the report to the vestry. There was a discussion on the report.

A motion to approve the report as presented was made by Maude March and seconded by Arthur Keller. The motion passed unanimously.

**Website and Facebook:**

When Patricia retires the Facebook page goes with her. (The page is part of her personal Facebook account.) A new Facebook page will need to be set up. Donald Graves has agreed to do that.

It is undecided who will make sure the website is kept current. Peter Vaux and Don Graves are talking about this.

**Rector's report:**

- Patricia may attend a retreat April 15-20
- Patricia will also be on vacation April 26 to May 4

**Closing Prayer by The Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson****The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM**

Next meetings: March 21, 2013 – regular Vestry meeting 4 PM

March 24, 2013 – special meeting with Vickie Wiederkehr 10:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Kenney  
Parish Administrator