

Parish of St. Mary and St. Jude  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
February 23, 2012

Present: Rev. Patricia Robertson, presiding; Maude March, Nancy McCormick  
Present on Skype: Elizabeth Carey, Axie Diana, Donald Graves, and Arthur Keller  
Absent: Janet Stratton, Peter Vaux

Reverend Robertson opened the meeting at 4:00pm with the lighting of a candle, a moment of silence and a prayer. The assigned reading from the book, *Leadership and Listening*, was discussed. The assignment for next month is Chapter 2 of the book with the option to read further if desired.

### **I. Minutes**

- a. **A motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting with the amendment of capitalizing the words Endowment and Fund in section II,v,a was made by Maude March and seconded by Nancy McCormick. The motion was unanimously approved by all the vestry members present.**

### **II. Parochial Report**

- a. The required 2011 report will be submitted to the National Church once it is signed by the clerk and the treasurer.
- b. Patricia explained that there was a decrease in the average number of active members attending services last year due to some parishioners not traveling to other churches during the collaboration experiment. Also, last year the winter was extremely harsh which may have contributed in the lower number.
- c. **A motion to accept the report pending signatures was made by Maude March and seconded by Don Graves. The motion was unanimously approved by all vestry members present.**

### **III. Nominating Committee**

- a. A vestry member is being sought to fill the unexpired term of Carroll Fernald
- b. Two other names are being considered for nomination
- c. It was suggested that we think about candidates' "broader gifts" that might open our minds to a wider variety of potential nominees.

### **IV. Substitute Organist**

- a. A substitute organist Andy Mead , professor from the University of Michigan School of Music, for July and possibly part of August has agreed to fill in for Peter Vaux. We're still looking for an organist for all of August if possible.
- b. David Schildkret will act as choir master for July through mid-August

- c. A question about the additional musical performances that Peter arranges was posed. He will be asked about his plans for them.

## **V. Stroud Interim Request**

- a. A hardship request was presented to help a woman in NEH, who was laid off from work, pay her rent in the amount of \$800.
- b. **A motion to approve the request was made by Maude March and seconded by Nancy McCormick. The motion was approved by all vestry members present.**

## **VI. Annual Meeting**

- a. Dan Larson appreciated the letter sent as a follow up to the Annual Meeting's discussion of the Centennial Fund document's wording "the work of the parish". The Centennial Committee will meet over the summer to discuss the survey that was distributed at the Annual Meeting and they also intend to meet with the Vestry during the summer to further explore the topic.
- b. A question was posed about the investments overseen by Wind River firm and the Centennial Fund Committee as to whether any might be controversial for a religious organization to hold. Patricia said that she was not party to the particulars of the investment portfolio.
- c. It was thought that it would be a good idea to revisit the topic of the interpretation of the "work of the parish" at the Annual Meeting, part II.
- d. The SMSJ website has information about January's Annual meeting posted, including Patricia's power point presentation.

## **VII. Financial Report**

- a. We are in a healthy financial position at this time with the pledges at \$160K, only \$5K away from goal.
- b. **A motion to approve the Financial Report was made by Arthur Keller and seconded by Axie Diana. The motion was unanimously approved by all vestry members present.**

## **VIII. Looking Ahead in Mission**

- a. Maude proposed that the vestry be pro-active in looking to the future and set into motion a process to deal with any future transitions the church may experience, be it clergy or understanding the present and future of the church.
- b. We should be thinking about a succession plan in anticipation of any clergy change, although Patricia states she is not planning to leave "any time soon".
- c. We, as a vestry, should be prepared to guide the congregation through any transitions –spiritual or otherwise.

- d. If anyone comes across any literature relative to this topic, please let Maude know.
- e. Maude will set up an ad hoc committee to explore and lay ground work for the creation of a transition plan.

**IX.** Axie will do some research as Trinity in Boston has recently held some forums on the topic.

**X. Mutual Ministry**

- a. Maude continues to present vestry “notes” at the Sunday service and in the Harbor Chart. Perhaps this will encourage participation in a conversation about the future of the church. Don Graves spoke with Bob Ho shortly before Bob’s death. His service will probably be over Memorial weekend.
- b. Dennis Carr –service this weekend -and Thistle Brown have died recently. The NYT states she will have a service in NEH this summer in addition to one in NYC.
- c. No social events on the horizon for March/April but there will be the Lenten soup suppers and the Celtic class during Lent.
  - i. Who is doing the soup? Maude will find out
- d. St. Saviour’s worshipped with us on 2/19 followed by a breakfast – a wonderful event that we should get on the calendar for next year.
- e. The 9 am worship time is working very well with 35-40 attendees at service.
- f. Patricia reminded us that the webinar resource for vestry is good and to get in touch with her for more information.
- g. The Rector will be out of town to attend a retreat 3/5-3/11 and on vacation 4/16-4/24.

**XI. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 22 at 3:45.** We will discuss Chapter 2 of *Leadership and Listening*.

**XII.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned after silence and a prayer at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alix C. Diana, clerk