

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 21, 3:45 pm

Rector's study

Present: The Reverend Patricia Rome Robertson, Maude March presiding, Nancy McCormick, Phyllis Partridge, Linda Lewis, James Clunan

By phone: Jackie Lowe

By Skype: Stephen Mahoney, Arthur Keller, Donald Graves

Opening Prayer and Reflection 4:00 pm

The Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson opened the meeting at 4:02 PM with silence and the prayer; *Considering Prayerfully Those in Poverty*

How will our meeting reflect those in poverty? We touch on the poor, but we also help those who are broken in body or spirit or feel invisible. This is one of the major missions of the church. To help the poor and to offer companionship to those in need. It is very frightening to be very poor, your life is on the line all the time and can be very scary. There can be joy regardless of circumstances

Reflection on Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times – Part 3

The Discussion was on the left and right hemisphere of the brain.

- Arthur likes the book so much. It is like a handbook to help different conflict. Things can happen quickly and snowball into problems. Very practical and applicable information.
- Jackie can relate to some of the principals and feels it is a good tool to have on hand. Examples were very helpful being all in the abstract.

Patricia brought attention to Conflict habits on page 102.

- Peace Mongering
- False Attribution
- Neglect or Denial

The most likely habit of this parish when conflict emerges

- The vestry thought it was Neglect or Denial.
- Patricia thought it was peace mongering. People rush around and try to fix things instead of work through what the issues are. Observed more in the year round congregation, but also some in the seasonal ones.

This means there is conflict and it never gets dealt with. On page 121 the issue is raised again. Leaders become pleasers. This might be part of the Maine culture, you make nice, even if you are not feeling it.

What can we do to resolve these situations instead of just making nice? People don't talk about things so they don't have to deal with them.

- We need to ask people to bring the problems to the place where they should be dealt with.
- We can't please everyone, some are unwilling to compromise.
- There needs to be a willingness to understand the other person and not always have things your way. Least said, soonest mended.
- We need to work on ourselves, not others. You can only change yourself.

People have personal issues that the parish is never going to solve. It is important to recognize these things in people and it is challenging to get people to talk about how they feel about things. Some people don't understand what is irritating them. When something is bothering you outside of the situation you tend to react differently. Emotional stability of your leader is a good attribute to look for in choosing your next leader.

Page 127 technical problems vs. adaptive problems:

- Very helpful to access what the issue is; technical or adaptive. Ex. Reform the church in a new age. Trying to adapt and try new things.

Page 109-110 positive path is aided by these actions:

- Seek clarity and observe behavior.
- Always keep people informed, over informed is better than under.
- Information to the congregation is always productive.

Most interesting section for search, is the postscript; *People of the Charm*.

- Some felt it is negative.
- Page 149 Challenge Leaders and Survival Leader. Frame questions to get them to talk about different things.

Good book resource for ongoing and also for the search process.

Questions you might ask potential rectors maybe:

- What you think about this book?
- What kind of continuing education has this person participate in? (It is now required that clergy do continuing education. It is sent to the bishop yearly.)

The Vestry has now completed reading *Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times*.

- New copies will be provided to the new vestry members.
- The discernment committee may want to read it also.
- It was decided not start a new book at this time with PRR only having two vestry meetings left.
- It was recommended the ones that didn't read this part, read it and discuss this again next meeting.

Approval of February 28, 2013 Minutes:

A motion to accept the February minutes was made by Maude March and seconded by Nancy McCormick. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes will now be posted in church and on line.

Business Agenda:

- Search Budget: Don't forget moving expenses.
- Pledge Update
 1. 2013 pledges are still slowly coming in.
 2. A note has been sent to those who have not yet pledged.
 3. The balance of a number of 2012 pledges have been received.
- 5% of the average of three years is drawn from the endowment every year for budget.
- A motion to accept the February 13, 2013 Finance Committee minutes and the budget update was made by Donald Graves and seconded by James Clunan. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion to raise Edward Horvath's hourly wage to \$22 was made by Maude March and seconded by Jackie Lowe. The motion passed unanimously.

Stroud Request

Stroud request for approval for an individual who is behind in rent and fuel. There was a discussion on pragmatic counseling tool for the ones that are in need, where they can get funds, who are the getting from now, etc. It is felt that practical counseling as part of the Stroud fund grand would be helpful to applicants. Chair of the Stroud usually calls the applicant and asks pertinent questions and then makes a proposal to the committee on their findings.

A motion to approve \$2,047 to this individual for rent and fuel was made by Linda, and seconded by Nancy McCormick. The motion passed unanimously.

Summer arrangements

Alice downs will be supply priest the first two Sundays in June.

Isobel Stanton will start Sunday school May 26 at St. Mary's by-the-Sea.

Beth and Joe will be doing a community project with the kids that Sunday.

Peter is working with a potential organist, she lives in NEH and is working hard to be ready for July and August.

Alan Fernald will be the organist April 15 – June.

David Schildkret will be the choir director in July and first two weeks of August.

Eddie Dunham will be the organist in September.

Peter will be return in October.

The Rev. William Hague will be the celebrant in July at St. Jude's Church.

Rent for The Rev. John Michael Wheeler, August celebrant at St. Jude's Church, has been taken care of, shared by the parish and a St. Jude's family.

Nominating Committee update

- We have people who have agreed to serve on the vestry:
- Morris Kellett, Beth Renault, Sheila Pulling and possibly Heather Jones. Heather will be contacting Jim and Maude with some questions before she commits.
- It was recommended to elect Maude as Sr. Warden at part II of the annual meeting.

Buildings and Grounds status

Maude March and The Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson met with Joe Renault and he is going to work with Edward Horvath and Izaak Giberson. He will get a list on what is needed. He will organize this and if needed come to the vestry for requests.

Update on St. Jude's Church parking project by Arthur Keller. The town mandated a new side walk in front of St. Jude's Church. It will have a 6 inch curb and this will eliminate parking on the road side.

Phase 1

Driveway into new parking created in the rear, this will provide 12-13 parking spaces There will be 7 parking spaces by the side of the church. (The space currently being used for parking.)

Phase 2

After completion of the side walk is in the existing steps and new handrail, will be reinstalled. What is currently paved will be newly paved. The deck to the Baldwin room will be changed as it currently doesn't meet safety regulation. The road side bank will need to be landscaped when the work is completed. Presently there isn't a completion date. Tony Smith reported the sidewalk should be completed by end of June. BCM Construction worked last fall (2012) and the rear parking area trees are removed. Final grade and seeding will need to be done when the weather permits. Driveway and side parking is dependent on completion of the sidewalk.

Phase 2 design work provided by Sam Coplon. Sam will provide corrected renderings. Many members want St. Jude's Church to stay looking the same. Proposals will be needed for the landscaping. For completion of the project there will be three contracts; one for Phase 1, one for the steps and paving, and one for the landscaping. \$90,000 is the total for the project. Currently \$42,000 has been raised. It is hoped to improve upon the fund raising once the season begins. There has been some thought to open the fund raising up to the general parishioners with smaller donations. Presently the committee has gone to certain individuals they thought would be interested in donating to this project. The Centennial Committee approved \$10,000 for the project. The remainder will be taken from the Foulke Fund. The accounting on this project is very tight. This will be a three year project, 2011-2013. We are hopeful to have all things taken care of before Arthur Keller and The Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson are off the vestry.

Thanks to Arthur for being such an integral part of the project. He agreed to continue to work with Sam Coplon for the completion of the project.

Hearing Loop:

Linda Lewis reported on the Hearing Loop and that they are everywhere in Europe. All hearing aids have a telecoil, the hearing loop is installed around the church and anyone who is speaking through a microphone can be picked up by the hearing aid. The congregation hears as they normally would and the person with the hearing aid hears it like it is an ear bud in their hearing aid. The clarity is much better. This has been done some in Maine.

There is a tiny learning curve. This curve could be include in the bulletin on Sundays and in the Harbor Chart to let parishioners know how to use it.

Discussion incurred about the use and if it would be feasible to do it at St Mary's Chapel after we get it in SMBTS

Explore options about doing St. Mary's Chapel and the parish hall in the future.

A motion was made by Linda Lewis that we install the hearing loop at St. Mary's by-the-Sea, using the Bronson quote in the amount of \$4,000. This will be funded by the Memorial Fund. It was seconded by James Clunan and passed unanimously.

[Who is responsible for seeing that this happens?]

Ongoing Transition Efforts

Community Holy Conversation update have met and talked about the book, will report next month.

Upcoming Conversation with Vicki – what do we want to accomplish? Maude would like people to think about questions to have for Vickie and have them available for Sunday's meeting. (March 24th)

Clarify whether looking for a rector or PIC at the end of this project. Clarify this with Vickie. The vestry feels we are going to call a rector, not a PIC.

TPIC Committee – can't do anything until Vickie provides names for the committee. Maude will email her about the names and staying for the meeting after church Sunday.

Profile Committee

- The profile is in process and will meet next week.

Search Committee webpage

- Search for the next rector web page will include Committees and where we are with the search at this time and when the profile is ready it will be added to the page.
- Don will work on a Facebook page for the parish.

Vestry retreat scheduled – June 8, Sea Coast Mission, 9 am to 3 pm

Scott Planting, facilitator

Rector's Report

Patricia will be taking a trip to Paris: April 26 to May 4.

Update on Leadership Fund intent and plans

We have been going through office files since the office has been updated. A Leadership brochure (founding document) was found and is good to refer to. The leadership fund has been used appropriately. The files are being reorganized.

The Rev. William Rasche Memorial Fund at St. Bartholomew's in New York established in 1977, has been researched by The Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson. Patricia sent a letter today about all everything she knows about the fund, no funds have been received by our parish since 1985. Patricia had the letter she sent notarized. She asked they reinstate and reconstruct that fund and they send us our portion yearly. This fund had \$4,965 in 1985. What should the value be today? This is an interesting problem. Someone might want to work on this as they will come back with a proposal. Arthur mentioned it should be done in finance and he will be back in May to do this.

The Parish has a credit/debit card in Patricia Robertson's name. This is used exclusively for ordering on line. Presently, Kerry Kenney, Parish Administrator has use of this card when needed. Patricia proposed Kerry should have a parish credit/debit card in her name, Patricia will be canceling hers in May. A motion was made by Maude March to have a Parish credit/debit card in Kerry's name for such purposes. This was seconded by Linda Lewis and passed unanimously.

Closing Prayer

Prayer from *Considering Prayerfully Those in Poverty*.

Next meeting: **March 24, with Vicki Wiederkehr**

April 25 – regular Vestry meeting

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Kenney
Parish Administrator