

Parish of St. Mary and St. Jude
Vestry Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2012

Present: Rev. Patricia Robertson, presiding; Lauri Fernald, Maude March, Nancy McCormick, Janet Stratton and Peter Vaux

Present on Skype: Elizabeth Carey, Axie Diana and Donald Graves

Not Present: Arthur Keller

Reverend Robertson opened the meeting with a moment of silence and a prayer at 4:00 pm
The assigned reading, *Rational Functionalism*, was discussed.

I. Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting was made by Nancy McCormick, seconded by Janet Stratton. The motion was unanimously approved by all vestry members present.

II. Finance

- a. Lauri went over the budget and balance sheet documents and made the following comments:
 - i. The checking account balance appears to be lower than last year but there was no distribution from the Leadership fund into general operations in 2011.
 - ii. Receivables: Negative numbers are adjustments by the auditors reflecting differences in how items are categorized.
 - iii. Equity assets should read 12/31/10 not 12/31/09
 - iv. Three accounts were assigned to the stone church renovation project. All remaining assets have been put into one account.
 - v. Endowments:
 - a) Market value of endowments as of 12/31/11 is \$1,454,658.23 which at 4% yields \$58,577 in income
 - b) The Stroud Fund stands at \$969,636 which at 4.7% yields \$45,686 in income (not all the income is used and goes back into the fund)
 - c) The Foulke Fund has \$157,386 in it and at 3.6% yields \$5,633.
- b. Lauri stated that Windriver – our investment manager – does a good job for us.
- c. Stating that the budget presented has not been audited and that some corrections are not reflected in the document before the vestry, Lauri made the following comments:
 - i. Next year we might not make budget if all the pledges are not met.
 - a) The figure on the pledge line(#4000) is what has been pledged, not what has been given and Lauri is doubtful that we will reach goal although Patricia is confident that we will.
 - ii. Health benefits and insurance are likely to continue to increase in the future and any relief via state health insurance changes won't happen for a while.
 - iii. Property insurance costs decreased due to a change in vendors by the Diocese.
 - iv. The line item for the Convention should read \$1K not \$500.
- d. Peter suggested that in future notes should accompany the budget to explain any changes.

- e. **A motion was made to approve the budget with needed adjustments by Peter Vaux, seconded by Janet Stratton and approved unanimously by the vestry members present.**
- f. **A motion to approve the Finance Committee minutes was made by Maude March, seconded by Peter Vaux and approved unanimously by the vestry members present.**

III. Nominating Committee

- a. Carroll Fernald's place on the vestry has yet to be filled. Jean Fernald, John Favour and Beth Renault have all declined the offer of vestry membership at the present time.
- b. Another delegate to Convention is needed. Maude will ask for a volunteer at the Annual Meeting.

IV. Organist changes

- a. As Peter Vaux will not be available as organist from May to October we will need to fill his place in July and August. Allan Fernald will take over Peter's duties in May and June, and Edie Dunham will play in September.
- b. David Schildkret, director of the Mt. Desert Chorus, will take on the choir leadership from the end of June until mid August.
- c. Axie will remind the Sunset Service committee that they will have to find an organist for their services. Stephen Sampson, who substituted last summer, might be willing and interested to do it.

V.

Stroud Fund

- a. Janet presented the following requests for payment from the Stroud Fund stating that the funds go directly to the vendors and not the individuals.

\$1,250 for discretionary fund

\$1,100 to help with back fuel, propane and electricity. With approx. \$500 to go toward additional fuel

\$1,500 to assist a person with back bills who is going through bankruptcy

\$1,200 to Kids Corner for 4 water saving toilets

\$1,000 for woman and child for rent and oil

\$500. For woman needing gas card, Hannaford card, phone tv internet combo bill paid

- b. **A motion to grant the total expenditure of \$6550. was made by Maude March, seconded by Nancy McCormick and approved unanimously by the vestry members present.**

VI. Alcohol Policy

- a. As the Parish has no alcohol use policy, the vestry agreed to adopt the Policy on Alcohol passed at the General Convention in 1985 with the additional bullet line: The Parish will require separate liability insurance for any private function held on the premises. See separate page for policy statement.

- b. **A motion to adopt the policy with the additional bullet line was made by Maude March, seconded by Nancy McCormick and passed unanimously by the vestry members present.**
- c. Patricia stated, in addition, that the church's liability coverage is very comprehensive over all.

VII. Annual Meeting

- a. Dan Larson would like to speak about the Centennial Fund at the Annual Meeting. This brought up the topic of the definition of "the work of the parish" which is wording in the Centennial Fund's policy with respect to the distribution of funds. Generally, the funds distributed have been for building maintenance projects and the only specific areas that David Scull(per Dan's definition)that are not to be financed are salaries, outreach and diocesan needs.
- b. Patricia suggested that we use a survey/questionnaire, to be passed out at the Annual Meeting, to help define what the work of the parish is. The use of the survey had been tabled in the past so there was some hesitancy about using it but Maude suggested that she broach the topic during her Sunday "highlights" to provide preparation for its use at the Annual Meeting.

VIII. Mutual Ministry

- a. At the November vestry meeting it was suggested that members reach out to with 8 parishioners as part of the goals of the MSM. There seemed to have been poor follow up for this except for Don Graves who called a few people. It was suggested that it might be easier to get in touch with the MSM interviewees and it was decided that we would try to reach out to at least three from our list.

IX. Other Business

- a. After some discussion, it was decided that we need more information about the proposed island Episcopal Church web site before we could commit to applying for the needed grant and the inclusion in the website but we should indicate our interest and investigate what is involved.
- b. Patricia said there is a webinar on Feb. 15th that should be a good resource for vestry work. Contact her for details
- c. Lauri said she would like our endowment draw to be under the current 5%

X. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 23 at 3:45 Please read the introduction, the forward and Chapter one of Leadership and Listening for discussion at the meeting.

XI. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned after silence and a prayer at 6:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Alix C. Diana, clerk

***The following statement was approved
by the 1985 General Convention:***

The Episcopal Church has never endorsed the prohibition of using beverages containing alcohol among adult members. Scripture offers Jesus' example of the use of wine at his first miracle in Cana and in the institution of the Holy Eucharist.

When an adult elects to use alcohol, moderate usage is expected. Church members are expected to be educated regarding those conditions that might compromise the health and safety of others. The church also supports those people who abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages for whatever reason. Many churches do not serve alcoholic beverages at church functions but for those who do, the following guidelines are given:

- Applicable federal, state, and local laws should be obeyed, including the serving of alcoholic beverages to minors.
- Whenever alcohol is served, a nonalcoholic alternative must always be offered with equal attractiveness and accessibility.
- Alcoholic beverages and food containing alcohol must be clearly labeled as such.
- The serving of alcoholic beverages at church events should not be publicized as an attraction of the event.
- The group or organization sponsoring the activity or event at which alcoholic beverages are served must have permission from the parish for such a plan. The group or organization must also assume responsibility for those persons who might become intoxicated and must provide alternative transportation for anyone whose capacity to drive may be thus impaired.
- Recognizing the effect of alcohol as a mood-altering drug, it is advisable to consider the nature of the function at which alcohol is proposed to be served.
- The use of chemicals other than alcohol is clearly controlled under federal, state or local laws. Such usage should be forbidden at any function.