

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Newton Lower Falls, Massachusetts

Minutes of Vestry Meeting, May 19, 2009

PRESENT: Paul Pyzowski, Mary Green, Beverly Hurney, Kitty Smith, John Turtle, Lynn Farnell, Dick Sabin, Mike Stevens, Jon Hayden, Stephan Braun, Nick DePeyster, Isabel Phillips, Maryjane Burgess, Elisabeth Rippy, Elisabeth Comer

The Vestry meeting opened with a prayer.

The minutes from April were reviewed and approved.

**NEW
BUSINESS:**

Paul asked if anyone on the vestry had heard any transition feedback from the congregation. Some people had heard positives.

Everything for the final farewell seems to be on track according to Lucille Rossignol. The purse is over \$10,000. Peggy Scott has the brunch under control.

Gwen Buehrens will be doing Sundays in June.

Margaret Schwarzer's contract is still to be finalized and approved by the diocese. She is working half time in Andover through June and half time at St. Mary's. Paul is working to try and get her here one Sunday in June.

The proposed compensation package for Margaret was reviewed and options were discussed. There was general discussion. Mike Stevens is concerned with the 2010 budget. One option is to have Margaret start at $\frac{3}{4}$ time in February. It was decided to review the situation then and decide. \$1950 month would be saved at $\frac{3}{4}$ time vs. full time. The current plan is to have her work half time through August, full time through January and try three quarter time starting in February.

VOTE TO APPROVE COMPENSATION AS SUBMITTED

The search committee slate is attached. The youth in the church will be involved at interviewing time.

VOTE TO APPROVE THE SLATE AS SUBMITTED

A letter to the whole congregation will be coming out this week.

Kick off for the transition is on June 7th. The Rev. Cynthia Hubbard will do the service and make the formal charge to the search committee. There will be a 90 minute meeting after the

service with all parish participation. It is called an “appreciative inquiry”. The outcome of the meeting will be a profile of the parish. The Vestry will coordinate the brunch. Childcare will be provided.

Stephan Braun brought up the picnic. After some discussion, it was decided that having three celebration/events in a row would be too much. Since June 14th is the last day of Church School it was decided to celebrate with an Ice Cream Social instead of the picnic which will be back next year.

Thank yous and small gifts for the Sunday School teachers will be coordinated by Isabel Philips.

Isabel Phillips is resigning from the vestry. She has another commitment that conflicts with the time. She will continue to chair the Christian education committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: No Report

Investment
Committee: Based on a preliminary analysis, we will have approximately \$5,000 less available from the endowment for next year’s budget based on the current drawdown rate of 4.5%..

Treasurer: Mike Stevens says that we are on target for this year’s budget.

Property: Jon reports that he walked through the rectory with a realtor to see what work needs to be done on the rectory. It needs a lot of work, perhaps as much as \$100,000 if all the suggestions of the real estate agent were adopted. It needs lots of updating including windows and painting. The energy audit person is coming in late May. The Diocese can also send someone out to do a walk through. Dick Sabin will be involved working with the diocese and its insurance audit.

Rector & Staff: All are fine

Christian Ed: Thanks to Isabel for her work on Christian Ed.

Outreach: Elisabeth Comer distributed the list as proposed by the Outreach Committee. The list is attached. Mike Stevens suggested supporting microfinance projects some time in the future.

VOTE TO APPROVE THE LIST AS SUBMITTED

- Women of St. Mary's: Maryjane Burgess reported on the final meeting last Tuesday and the upcoming outing. There are plans to partner with another church for the B-Safe program. Part of the program will be an outing for 90 kids at the end of July at the Epiphany School in Boston. Is there a way to involve St. Mary's kids?
- Tenants: No report.
- Churchyard: No report
- Worship: No report.
- Altar Guild: Peter will be leaving all of the vestments at the church. Who is responsible for them?
- Hospitality No report
- Music: There will be a trumpet for the service on the 31st. The choir will be singing at Lucille's. Babson night went well. Kirsten asked if she could be reimbursed for a conference in Boston this summer. It costs \$350. She also asked for help with her new MAC and it was suggested that she work with the One to One at the Apple Store. It costs \$100/yr.
- Deanery: No report.
- St. Mary's Historian: Beverly helped Peter clean out his office and sorted out papers and pictures.
- Meeting concluded with a prayer for the work of the vestry.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Farnell, Clerk