

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Joint Meeting of Vestry and Search Committee October 18, 2017

Vestry Present: Charlie Ohl, Carol Burns, Patty Mertens, Julia Mount, Jo Meachem, Joe Spina, Zoe Koston (via Skype), Katie Thomas, Kathy Boone (clerk); Excused: Pat Lalonde

Search Committee Present: Jennifer Coleman, Susan Woods, Bev Barry

Meeting opened with prayer at 6:30 p.m. Joe moved, Julia seconded, and the agenda was unanimously accepted. Joe moved, Carol seconded, and the July minutes as amended and the September minutes were accepted with one abstention.

Search Update

The candidate that the search committee had recommended to be called withdrew his candidacy earlier today via email, indicating both professional and family reasons. Susan Woods reached out in a follow-up phone conversation and notwithstanding a substantive discussion reported that the candidate's decision seems final.

The candidate did have what all regarded as thoughtful questions and recommendations for us to consider in clarifying our vision as we go forward, particularly meaningful integration of the Good Shepherd and Ascension communities as one body. There was consensus that we have learned a great deal in this process and now need to apply this learning.

Joe moved that the search committee be charged with reopening a search for a full-time rector/interim rector. Carol seconded. In ensuing discussion, it was noted that the parish's financial position is stronger than it was when it was decided to define the position as $\frac{3}{4}$ time. The motion carried 7-1 with 0 abstentions. The nay vote was clarified as an objection to appointing an interim rector instead of a permanent one.

Susan presented an agenda and discussion points for the previously planned All Parish Meeting scheduled for Jubilee Sunday, October 29. In light of what has transpired with the search, it was agreed that holding the meeting is still appropriate and indeed vital. Key discussion points, incorporating recommendations of the now-withdrawn candidate, include calling into

question having three distinct services – “church in the box” vs. a sustainable parish with an integrated identity.

It was agreed that search updates would be given at services this coming Sunday, along with announcement of the Jubilee Sunday All-Parish meeting.

Members of the search committee departed and the vestry continued with other business.

Warden Updates

1. Contract to merge Good Shepherd and Ascension. Charlie presented highlights, including diocesan management of Ascension’s endowment with dividends payable to Good Shepherd over ten years. Joe moved that the merger contract be approved, Katie seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
2. Stewardship Campaign. Charlie indicated his willingness to co-chair the campaign. It was agreed to start the campaign the first weekend of November and conclude on the first Sunday of Advent (December 3).

Financials

In the absence of the treasurer, Joe moved, Patty seconded, and tabling of the financials was unanimously agreed.

Old Business

There was a reminder to follow up regarding the plumbing expense incurred by AA’s misuse of sink. Charlie has initiated conversation regarding Buffalo Girl Choir’s use of space. Katie has left a detailed voice message with the couple who were unable to be married here and has not heard back.

New Business

It was agreed that there should be one service – the Christmas Eve service – on December 24.

Joe moved, Carol seconded, and all approved adjournment at 8:07 p.m. The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Boone