

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Vestry Meeting November 16, 2016

Present: Nancy Cich, Charlie Ohl, Elaine Richau, Carol Burns, Joe Spina, Debbie Wiesner, Patty Mertens, Pat LaLonde, Kathy Boone (clerk).

Excused: Katie Thomas

Meeting opened with prayer at 7:03 p.m. Joe moved, Charlie seconded, and November minutes were approved unanimously, as amended. Joe moved, Carol seconded, and the meeting agenda was approved unanimously.

Wardens Report

The Search Committee had a productive three-hour meeting with facilitation by Susan Woods. OTM questions were answered. Charlie is meeting tomorrow with Dennis, Ascension's warden, to preview joint vestry meeting of Good Shepherd and Ascension for discernment. The meeting is scheduled for December 10 and will also be open to interested members of both congregations. Charlie will also be meeting soon with Vicki Zust and will follow up on any other loose ends.

Nancy reported on Diocesan Convention. Delegates to National Convention were elected. An amendment has been proposed to our diocesan constitution to allow convention to meet outside the diocese: this would facilitate joint meeting with diocese of northwest Pennsylvania.

Nancy announced that Eaton Camp will be collaborating next year with Lockport rather than Buffalo public schools. She wanted the parish know, however, that camp personnel were very happy with Good Shepherd and the decision to move to Lockport was unrelated.

Nominating Committee

Committee members gave an update on conversations with prospective vestry members – thus far, some contacts have expressed interest, some have declined.

Financials

Pat reported that we are still behind in pledge, but we are not needing to spend all that was budgeted for interim rector. No withdrawals from

endowment have been needed. Patty moved, Elaine seconded, and the financial statements were accepted unanimously.

Pat reported that we have been approached by an anonymous donor wanting to provide a matching gift if we are interested in fundraising. Discussion ensued about endowment vs. capital campaign for specific projects. Patty said we need to look carefully at our endowment policy as well as clarifying our usages of the endowment account. Charlie will also check on diocesan policies.

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Pat also reported that she has looked into whether accepting credit cards or Pay Pal would be feasible and help facilitate contributions (including online).

Pat reported that we are staying with Paychex as they are less costly than the alternative.

Pat reported that pledges for 2017 are down in both number (28 vs. 37) and aggregate amount. There was discussion of the most appropriate way to convey to the congregation what is still needed for fiscal health. The wardens will speak to the issue at both services.

There was discussion of staff salaries and adjustments for 2017.

There was agreement to advertise our Christmas services in the Buffalo News as well as the Parkside Community Newsletter.

Property Report

Carol reported that rectory projects are being worked on, as well as the rehab work needed in the nursery. The rectory boiler will be replaced shortly. St. Francis Garden downspout is clogged and will require work. Issue with improper disposal of coffee grounds by group using Smith Hall will be addressed.

Old Business

We are following up on adopting a family at Christmas through the Priscilla Project. Joe will propose an organization to receive our Christmas offering and we'll vote electronically.

Patty reminded us that we need to request to see Ascension financials.

New Business

Carol proposed and there was consensus to cease having meals before vestry meetings except on special occasions – maybe twice a year.

Elaine reported on Christmas flowers, wreaths, and greening of the church. It was agreed that greening could take place after the 10:30 service on the 18th. Ascension could use the chapel if desired.

Next vestry meeting will be December 14, 2016.

Meeting closed with prayer at 8:40 p.m. Joe moved, Nancy seconded, and all approved adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Boone