

Vestry Minutes

FINAL

Jan. 22, 2006
Adams Room

Present: Clergy and staff: Paul Abernathy, Shearon Williams, Susan Block
Wardens: Mike Townsend, Charley Donnelly
Vestry Members: Stewart Andrews, Eileen Blumenthal, Rod
Lawrence, Burton Reist, Lisa Sotir, Susan Thigpen, David Willson,
Margaret Wood
Officers: Jack Burton, Pete Carlson, Hank Donnelly, Gardner Van
Scoyoc
Absent: Julie Murphy

Action Items and Discussion

1. Diocesan Convention

John Barton, Raiford Gaffney and Don Mosher, the elected parish delegates to the Diocesan Convention, met again with Vestry members for guidance on their votes at the upcoming assembly.

Much of the discussion focused on proposals to be brought before the Convention relating the church's position on same-sex relationships. One of the proposals calls for full inclusion of gays in the life of the church, while the other endorses the Anglican Windsor Report, which states that homosexuality is not in compliance with Biblical teaching. Vestry members in general expressed support for the former and opposition to the latter proposal, but also urged a spirit of compromise. They also voiced concerns over the impending potential split both within the U.S. Episcopal Church and the worldwide Anglican Community over the issue, with its implications for legal battles over control of church property and a drop in contributions to many parishes.

In spending so much time arguing over sexuality issues, Paul said, the church is failing to address the issue of its mission in the 21st century.

2. Vestry Retreat Priorities Strategy

Mike noted that he would be meeting with Parish Pillar heads to start a conversation about implementing the Vestry's streamlining goals. He reported on the following issues:

- The goal of limiting the number of weekly meeting nights for the clergy and senior warden has been a big struggle. A conference call service is being considered, along with other new ways for meetings to be held.
- The Worship Committee has distributed a survey on parish worship needs, and will report to the Vestry its recommendations on the Sunday schedule and other issues.
- On space use, Charley has distributed an extensive questionnaire to groups that use the church facilities.

3. Annual Meeting Planning

After distributing a planning schedule and list of Vestry responsibilities for the Annual Meeting, Stewart raised the issue of whether the event should be held on the Friday evening after Easter, as was the case for many years, or on the following Sunday, as it has for the previous two years. Some members expressed a preference for returning to Friday, but others said that was difficult for parents with small children.

Members agreed informally that the event will be held on Sunday morning. They discussed such issues as informing members and visitors that the service schedule would be different that morning, voter eligibility based on pledging, and food. They also urged an active approach to recruiting candidates for Vestry and convention delegate.

4. What's New, etc.

Needs Attention

A resolution approving a fundraiser for Katrina victims at the Mardi Gras party, which had been approved electronically by Vestry members, was read into the record.

A motion to support Paul and Shearon's discretionary fund was approved.

The "mite box" Lenten fundraiser was approved.

Needs Acknowledgement

The Vestry expressed appreciation to Jack and Tucker Harris for their \$35,000 grant to the Christian Education program. The grant will fund development of a new Christian Education manual, provide scholarships for a second weekend in the Life, Community and Faith class, and support participation in the program.

5. 2006 Budget

The Vestry went into executive session to consider the budget. Reflecting the strong showing of the 2006 Canvass, the budget approved included a number increases in funding, including for Outreach programs, clergy compensation, the music director's upcoming sabbatical, and creation of a reserve account to cover unexpected expenses.

The budget also includes two new lines. The "Vestry Discretionary Fund" is intended to cover such expenses as subsidizing costs for Maundy Thursday and Shrine Mont and paying for the annual meeting. The "Parish Reserve" is a savings account, a "rainy day" fund for unanticipated future emergencies. It will be established as a designated fund so that balances can be carried forward from year to year. The Vestry agreed that the use funds in both of these new lines would be proposed by the Senior Warden and approved by the Vestry.

6. Human Resources Committee

Gardner Van Scoyoc, chairman of the Human Resources Committee, announced his retirement from the position due to health reasons.

Respectfully submitted,
Hank Donnelly
Register

Electronically reviewed, amended and approved by Vestry, February 2006.