

St. James Episcopal Church

Minutes of Vestry

December 8, 1009

Meeting opened at 7:45 p.m., following a potluck supper and preliminary discussion of the budget for calendar year 2010.

Present: Dean Ritchie, Dianne Lowe, Margaret Rehberg, Eric Pratt, Fritz Hughes, Sharon Nitz, Sara Schofield, John Brewer, and Rector Mary Beth Rivetti, Presiding

Opening Prayer: Eric Pratt

The proposed agenda was approved by consensus.

M.S. to approve the Minutes of November 7, 2009

M.S to accept the Treasurer's Report

Old Business

1. Response to Stewardship Campaign and Cottage Meetings: "People dug deep, gave generously" (The Rev. Mary Beth Rivetti, Rector) Dennis Edgecomb, Pledge Secretary reports that \$163,257 has been pledged so far; 40 repeat pledgers, 2 new pledgers, 12 lost pledgers. The Rector observed that the congregation is shrinking in number; church attendance is down. She called for all of us to work for spiritual growth.
2. Sabbatical planning team: (Sharon Nitz, Ted Nitz, Julie McCoy, Sara Schofield, Dean Ritchie, and the Rev. Mary Beth Rivetti) Team meets every Friday evening. Various solutions to the problem of replacing Mary Beth during her absence have been discussed, no definite decisions yet.
3. CCC, Renewal of Lease: M.S. to authorize Fritz Hughes, Dean Ritchie, and Mary Beth Rivetti to negotiate with CCC final wording of the lease.
4. Nominating Committee: For Vestry, one member for a 3 yr. term and three members for a 2 yr. term need to be nominated before the Congregational meeting January 31, 2010. Also, at least three delegates to the Convention in Spokane need to be nominated.

New Business

Annual meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2010 after a single service with the Eucharist at 9:00 a.m. There will be an all parish potluck. All committees should have reports ready for the Annual Report by January 17, 2010.

Reports

1. Mary Beth serves on the Diocesan Council as *ex officio* member because she is Dean of the regional deanery. On the council, she serves on the committee on Social Justice and Outreach (which works with the Diocesan Commission on Social Justice and Outreach Ministries). In addition, she is co-chair of the Diocesan Anti-racism Task Force. As Dean, she will also be working with the Mission Strategy Committee

of council, and the staff person for congregational development (The Rev. Paul Lebens-Englund) to talk about deanery-level mission strategy and congregational development training.

2. Sabbatical Committee: Concerned about how to cover our Rector's absence both pastorally and liturgically from mid-March to Mid-June. Has also discussed Mary Beth's goals for this time and the need to set up a reporting procedure to provide assurance that she is accomplishing her goals.
3. Junior Warden, Fritz Hughes, reports that Buildings and Grounds has nothing special to report outside of routine maintenance.
4. Campus Ministry: Sara Schofield reports that a Spring Break Service Trip is in the planning stages. Possible site for service might be the Lillian Vallely Indian School in South Idaho.
5. Christian Education: Major activity to prepare a scripted Christmas Pageant.
6. Episcopal Church Women: Nothing new to report.
7. Hospitality: No activity until newcomers in Fall. Sinners Dinners will take place in February.
8. Worship: During Advent Evening Prayer scheduled every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. The Music Director, Elena Panchenko, has scheduled choir rehearsals every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.
9. Outreach and Social Justice: Kay Surles will go to Belize again this January. Considerable planning has been done for 2010. Nancy Collins-Warner, Kay Surles, Jennifer Hammond, and Mary Beth will serve as bell ringers for the Salvation Army at Shopko Friday, December 11.
10. Pastoral Care: Eric Pratt has had discussions with Carol Porter regarding the budget request for 2010.
11. Communications: Nothing new to report.

Action Items

1. Dianne Lowe will correct the lease agreement with CCC.
2. Dean Ritchie will submit a trial budget at the January meeting of Vestry.
3. Mary Beth will get a card and leave it on her desk to be signed.
4. Dianne Lowe will offer the opening prayer at the January meeting.
5. January meeting will be preceded by a supper at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. for Compline.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. Brewer, Clerk *pro tem*.