

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH VESTRY MINUTES
April 23rd, 2007

PRESENT: The Rev. Mark Delcuze, Rev. Emily Richards, Peter Bachmann, John Brotherhood, Pat Carlson, Richard Cutting, Rich Duncan, Karen Head, Tim Klvana, John Morrison, Andy Robertson, , Mike Ryan, Dave Wilson. **Absent:** Jamie Mosedale, Mike Rodgers **Guests:** Beverly Sutherland, Christian Mueller

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 with John Morrison presiding. Richard Cutting led the opening devotional. After the meeting was called to order our Guest Beverly Sutherland requested that the vestry review technology that could improve the sound in the church or supply hearing devices to assist those with this special need. She also requested that music return to the 8am services.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING

Marion Roth moved that the minutes of the March meeting be approved as amended. The motion was seconded by Dave Wilson and approved.

II. REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Mike Ryan began noting pledge income was ahead of budget by \$18K made up by a lower than projected plate income and higher than anticipated pledge income. The endowment report was reviewed and discussion on how fees are disclosed on the statement will be reviewed by the finance committee and fund manager again. The Asset Report indicated that \$140,000 was on deposit in checking at Ridgefield Bank and would be reviewed again at the next meeting as money may need to be transferred to another account. A question was asked about how restricted accounts are accounted for as separate funds are in one investment. The answer was that the earnings are distributed equally in proportion to the balance in each fund. Done on a quarterly basis, each restricted fund earns a pro-rata share of income.

Rich Duncan moved that the reports be approved as presented, Richard Cutting seconded and the reports were approved.

Property Committee: A garden committee was recently established and had done a great deal of work to improve the flora and fauna surrounding our main campus. This committee includes Danny Cutting and has received "seed money" from the property committee and is working on plans to create a garden behind the rectory to grow flowers and vegetables.

The lighting project in the church has completed illumination of the largest stained glass window and the rest of the interior lighting is still yet to be completed.

Music Minister Search Committee: Six candidates of 22 have been identified as likely candidates and will be interviewed by Mark with a mid-May target of completion. The timetable looks like an offer will be tendered in June. The finance committee will meet this week to explore options on housing so a realistic offer can be made which may include a housing allowance.

IT Committee: Rich Duncan reported on updates being done to the tape drive back-up system. Rich has 5 committee members to explore improvements to the website and ongoing management of it.

Youth Committee: Karen Head reported on her committee feeling some urgency in getting direction about what they would be looking for in covering all youth programs with the budget constraints of not being about to replace our current Youth Ministers duties with a full time position. Mark said additional discussions to bring all youth education and programs were being reviewed. The vestry supported Karen's intent to move forward recruiting parishioners to lead programs and events. Cuyler will be defining written program responsibilities so volunteers or personnel could follow plans for programs like H.O.P.E., Midnight Run, Nutmeg, Youth Group and more. Discussion was to separate the planning from the administration work so that duties could be defined and more options could be reviewed for meeting and sharing the work load.

III. SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Vestry Retreat: John Morrison reported that consultant Anne Watkins would be leading our group at the Vestry retreat on Saturday, April 28th at St. Mark's Church in New Canaan, CT.

Leadership Coaching Process: John and Mark reported that meetings with our consultant have been going well and they are pleased with the process.

IV. CLERGY REPORT & PASTORAL CARE ISSUES

Confirmation on May 19th 2006, at St. Stephen's : Bishop Curry will be confirming 19 youth and receiving 8 adults from St. Stephen's plus others from local churches.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Mark announced that Trish Cunningham will be ordained at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford on June 9th.

VI. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:32 pm with the Lord's Prayer and was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Marion Roth, Clerk