

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting

March 15, 2016, 7 p.m.
Farmer Hall

Vestry Members in Attendance: Gary Naegel, John Armstrong, Kristen Garnett, Louise Beecher, the Rev. Jennings Matheson, Rebecca Rastetter, Colleen McHugh, Gary Cimmino.

Absent: Treasurer Cathy Golden, Mark Auletta.

Late because of Transition Team Meeting: Art Criddle, Nancy Karas.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as amended. The motion was made by Rebecca Rastetter and seconded by Gary Cimmino.

2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report, submitted in writing, was accepted after a motion by John Armstrong and seconded by Kristen Garnett.

There was, however, discussion on two issues that will need future action by the Vestry.

Recent expenses for elevator service, to repair frozen pipes in Farmer Hall and water damage in the rectory highlighted the need to put more money in the Facilities Maintenance Fund. Kristen Garnett suggested that \$10,000 could be re-allocated from the Capital Building Fund. Action on proposal was tabled until the next meeting, when Treasurer Cathy Golden could be present.

Turning to another possible expense, the Rev. Jennings Matheson reported that the green chasuble, stole and altar frontal piece used during the Sundays of the Pentecost needed replacement because of fraying. The altar piece presented a particular problem because it was custom made and tightly fitted to the altar's exact proportions, she explained. A new set would cost about \$5,000, she said.

Although it was suggested that a local seamstress be consulted to see if the materials could be repaired, there also was a discussion about what fund could finance the purchase of a new set if it proved necessary. Kristin Garnett said that a former treasurer had created a binder that listed all of the church's funds and described what they could be used for.

Old Business

3. Rectory Repairs

Vestry Warden Gary Naegel reported that the issues surrounding the repair of water damage in the rectory were still unresolved. The damage was caused by a malfunctioning air conditioning unit. The manufacturer, Carrier, which has lawsuits against it because of

problems with that model unit, had offered a \$500 credit toward its estimated \$3,000 cost of replacing the unit.

John Armstrong reported that George McQueeney of East River Oil was looking into the possibility of fixing the air conditioner's heat exchange unit. Doing so would cost an estimated \$1,000.

In a related matter, the vestry heard a report on the successful re-creation of the church's Buildings and Grounds Committee. Vestry member Gary Cimino is the chairman. The members are Jon Heflin, John Potenziani, William Casey, Matt Valentine, and Martin Gerst. The committee also includes former vestry member Alan Miller, who successfully oversaw redesign and reconstruction of the church's kitchen in the past year.

4. Back Parking Lot Lights

No action has been taking yet on installing lights in the back parking lot.

5. Farmer Hall

The next major project will be the redo of Farmer Hall and the Choir Room this summer. Gary Naegel said that the committee will need to get input from all the stake-holders in those facilities before work could begin. Those include Boy Scout Troop 490, St. Andrew's pre-school, and the church's music director, as well as organizations who regularly rent Farmer Hall as a meeting space.

New Business

6. Parochial Report

The parochial report – officially the 2015 Report of Episcopal Congregations and Missions – was approved unanimously on a motion by Rebecca Rastetter that was seconded by Collen McHugh. The report, which details such things as membership, attendance and services, during the previous year (in this case 2014), as well as pledges, revenues and expenses, was prepared by Treasurer Cathy Golden and the Rev. Jennings Matheson.

7. Vestry Youth Member

Rebecca Rastetter suggested that the vestry create a position on the vestry for a youth member to be filled by a member of the congregation who is under 18. The term would be for one year and would not be permitted to vote on matters with legal implications. The idea was unanimously approved on a motion by Rastetter that was seconded by Gary Cimmino.

8. Retreat Wrap-Up

In a brief discussion, the Vestry members expressed satisfaction with the retreat held the previous Saturday at Deer Lake in Killingworth. The Rev. Jennings Matheson suggested that future retreats might start with ice-breakers to create a sense of unity.

9. Community Garden and Tables

Gary Naegel, who with his wife Brenda spearheaded the creation of a church garden in the Bauer Park Community Gardens last year to support the local food kitchen, suggested that an additional garden and relaxation/lunching space be created in the section of lawn that lies between the church entrance and the entrance to the church offices. He said the garden would consist of raised beds planted with herbs and flowers. The herbs would be sent to the soup kitchen along with the produce from the Bauer Farm plot, while the flowers would beautify the front of the church, he said. Outdoor tables and chairs would be placed among the beds to provide an attractive setting for parishioners and visitors to sit.

Consequently, the vestry adopted the following motion: “It was moved that a welcoming space be created next to the church between the sanctuary and the church school consisting of raised beds for flowers and herbs as well as picnic tables. The budget for this project will be drawn from the Capital Building Fund and not exceed \$2,000. This project will be an extension of the (church’s) community garden in Bauer Park.”

The motion was made by the Rev. Jennings Matheson, seconded by Art Criddle and passed unanimously.

10. Transition Update

Nancy Karas, who with Art Criddle serves on the Transition Team that is coordinating the search for a new rector, said that the team was being trained in different questioning styles in preparation for interviewing rector candidates. She reported that team members had been charged with coming up with five questions in five behavioral domains for the initial Skype interviews.

Committee members will practice doing interviews with priests provided by the diocese prior to the Skype sessions, she said.

The position was already being advertised and the six-week window for applications scheduled to close April 15, Karas said, although the application period could be extended for two weeks if necessary.

The applications will be vetted by the diocesan staff before a list of potential candidates is sent to the Transition Team. Karas said the team members will start by watching video recordings of the candidates’ sermons before moving on to the Skype interviews.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted Louise Beecher, Vestry Clerk