

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 21, 2012

7:00 pm, Farmer Hall

Attendees: Rev. Steven Domienik, Roger Cyrus, Joan Fisler, Geoff Gregory, Margaret Mason, Brenda Naegel, Nick Rawlings, and Olivia Scaros

Absent: Chris Abbott, Jen Conroy, Cathy Golden, Sue McCann, and Ben Hoffman

Guest: Rich Fisler (for Outreach,) Dave Mason, Charles Albright, and Donna Gregory (for Stewardship) – and a special hello from Grant Underwood

Opening Prayer

Joan

Priest-in-charge Follow-up

Steve

Bishop Ahrens will be here on Sept 16. We'll combine all services and ask her to address full-time minister issues. Following that, we'll ask people to sign up to have dinner with one of some ten or so families, to be held between mid-September and the end of October. At each, there will be discussion on selected topics, including outreach, stewardship, and the priest in charge process. We will then convene a full meeting (aka a retreat) to gather those findings and discern outcomes.

Outreach Discussion

Rich

We spend in two ways: on programs we support with money and participation and on those where we just give money. Last year, we gave \$15,450 to those. We have given \$4,650 so far this year. Many are "core", funded through the operating budget. Some of these have lost their support, for one reason or another. How do we keep the spending at the proper level? Suggestion: we match funds given by the congregation. Another: select some major work we could all participate in, similar to HOME, but, perhaps closer. We'd identify with its mission and all get behind it. More work on this topic will be done at the dinners during September and October.

Stewardship Discussion

Dave

Our faith based pledging appears to be equivalent to last year, though it is difficult to assess. We recommend that it to continue for at least another year. Analysis shows that 81% of contributions come from 31% of our givers. The projected total is \$277K, which yields a \$49K deficit. We need to emphasize growth initiatives: charge the congregation to bring people here, advertise the good things we're doing (Pig Roast on September 15th, Broadway Night, U2Charist, etc.) look to mail postcards to Madison residents. Let us flood the system with positive messages. The more we grow, the better we'll be financially.

Minutes from June, 2012 Vestry Meeting

Nick

Motion to approve June's Minutes (Brenda/Cyrus)

Approved with minor corrections

Treasurer's Report

Geoff

Geoff presented Cathy's Treasurer's Report covering July, 2012. We are looking to Serendipity to close its books – with our help if necessary. We also need to continue with the monthly message at services to alert the rest of the congregation to our financial condition. While the figures show a surplus for July, the surplus is largely an expense-timing issue and our deficit must be dealt with.

Motion to approve Treasurer's July Report (Nick/Brenda)

Approved Unanimously

Closing Prayer

Steve

Our next meeting will be on September 18.

Motion to Adjourn Approved – Adjourn at 9:25 p.m.