

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

7:00 pm, Farmer Hall

Attendees: Rev. Steven Domienik, Chris Abbott, Cathy Golden, Geoff Gregory, Margaret Mason, Sue McCann, John Joe Milner, Brenda Naegel, Nick Rawlings, and Olivia Scaros.

Missing: Joan Fisler, Ben Hoffman, and Jamie Polk.

Guests: Mike Greene

Opening Prayer Steve

Quick Updates Steve

Parish retreat: ~50 attendees, despite weather-forced change. Good foundation. Work begins in January.

Letter to Diocese: letter stating our not completing the extra \$7.2K sent.

Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service next Sunday @ 4:00. 6 church choirs. Food pantry donation.

Saturday Stewardship Conversation 8:30-12:30. Vestry plus Stewardship plus Finance

Vestry Basket for Holiday Fair : We each gave \$10. Joan will buy.

Roger Cyrus has resigned from the Vestry.

Vestry Square Table conversation Steve

How do we understand our roles? We should be representing the parish, for one, by adding “parish feedback” to our agenda. Joe recommended we survey the entire congregation so we can be sure to receive input from the entire parish. He will develop a draft survey which will be circulated prior to our next meeting for feedback and then we will discuss it at our next meeting. Topics will include “what do you think? What do you like/dislike? People should know that their opinion matters.

We must move beyond the concentration on our finances. We need to celebrate the our achievements

Same Sex Marriage Follow-Up Steve

In July 2012 The General Convention approved the use of a blessing rite for same sex couples. Each bishop will have to decide if they will authorize it for use in their respective diocese or not. In states where same sex marriage is legal, bishops have been given authority to exercise generous pastoral care for same sex couples. Our bishop has given permission to all clergy in CT to use the blessing rite and to officiate at same sex weddings starting the first Sunday in December. Our Priest agrees with this position taken by our bishop and an all parish meeting was held on Sunday, October 14th to have a conversation about this issue. General support was acknowledged by those gathered and by the vestry and there were also some reservations expressed about marrying and blessing same sex couples. The draft survey being developed by Joe will include a question on same sex marriages so that every parishioner will have an opportunity to share their positions on this issue. Our priest will hold off on performing any same sex marriages at St. Andrew’s until all the responses have been collected and reviewed.

Vestry Nominating Committee Steve

Sue, Margaret, Chris, and Joan or Geoff will be the committee and will recommend members as needed.

Approval of October’s Minutes Nick

Motion to approve October’s Minutes (Margaret/ Sue)

Approved unanimously as revised

Treasurer’s Report Cathy

The report now covers October, 2012. The YTD balance is now \$20K under our balanced-budget target.

Pledges picked up over September’s and our Diocesan contribution went down, as we’d agreed last month.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s September Report (Nick/Brenda)

Approved unanimously

Closing Prayer Steve

Our December meeting will be on December 18th.

Motion to Adjourn Approved – Adjourn at 9:15.