



JUNE VESTRY MEETING

MEETING MINUTES
June 24, 2008 6:00-8:30pm
St. Nicholas Bldg, Rm 216

Vestry Members Present

Randy Urmston, Sr. Warden
Margaret Rothschild, Jr. Warden
Terry Brandon
Kathleen Croston
Sam Fleshman
Phil Haas
Michele Hasson
Alan Mack, Bishop's Rep.
Janet McCully
Randy Revelle
Herb Williams

Vestry Members Absent

Antonio Foglia
Bishop Greg Rickel
Miller Adams
Carol Hoerster
Bob Muglia, Junior Warden

Officers Present

John Hoerster, Chancellor
Steve Moen, Treasurer
Virginia Lenker, Clerk

Staff Members Present

Rev. Sue Reid
Rev. Ralph Carskadden, Priest-in-Charge
Mary Coon, Interim COO

Staff Members Absent

Liz Sloat, Executive Assistant to the
Priest-in-Charge

9 guests present

Call to Order

Randy Urmston called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. He introduced each Vestry member around the table and asked them to tell about their other work lives.

Spiritual Reflection

Sue Reid offered a reflection on the collect and gospel reading for Sunday, June 29, and led a discussion about the passage "whoever welcomes you welcomes me."

Action Item

Consent Agenda

The Vestry accepted the Consent Agenda consisting of the following:

- Approval of Minutes of May 27, 2008 Vestry Meeting
- Receipt of Reports/Notes/Minutes of Meetings of Vestry Committees:
 - Facilities Committee minutes, draft – 6/17
 - Finance Committee meeting notes, draft – 6/23 (*hand-carried to meeting*)
 - Holy Orders – *pending*
 - Mission & Strategy Committee notes, draft – 6/18
 - Personnel Committee memo
 - Stewardship & Development Committee minutes – 6/3 & 6/17

Priest in Charge Report

Father Ralph noted that the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion were discussed in the June 23 issue of *Newsweek* in a column entitled "Let Me Worship as I Am", and in the June 2008 issue *Harper's Magazine* cover story: "Turning away from Jesus: Gay rights and the war for the Episcopal Church".

He then reported that there will be an all-day staff in-service training with Father Morrie Hauge and Pastor Eldon Olson, on July 30. He also announced that Susan Knirk would be holding a retreat on Sat. Aug. 9 in Bloedel about volunteer ministries. Insights on Radical Hospitality will be discussed, as well as planning for Homecoming Sunday.

Ralph presented his “Birthday Card” to St. Peter’s, Seattle, which was begun by Japanese pioneers. **The motion to approve Proposed Resolution #P-08-GO-05 (St. Peter’s Seattle Centenary) was made, seconded and passed unanimously.**

Canon Missioner

Father Ralph reported that Bishop Rickel has invited the Vestry to interview his two candidates for Canon Missioner, noting that this will be a different process than the search for a new Dean. Someone else suggested that the Canon Missioner’s role be thought of as a facilitator for the healing process. The Vestry will meet in Executive Session for one hour with each candidate, most likely in mid-July. Although the Bishop will appoint the Canon Missioner for a period of 3-5 years, it was agreed that the congregation will want to be involved and informed. After a discussion, the Vestry asked Ralph to invite (via his weekly update) members of the congregation and staff to submit questions for inclusion in the Vestry’s interviews.

Octave of Lament

The days between July 22 and July 29 will be an *Octave of Lament*—a week to respond to grief and mixed feelings that many are still dealing with. On Saturday, July 26, there will be a supper at 6:30pm, possibly followed by a fire in which to burn emails-- both sent and received. He also noted that the Rev. Herb Anderson will preach on July 27. The July Rubric and Ralph’s weekly emails will have more details.

Senior Warden’s Report

Randy Urmston distributed a chart on Vestry responsibilities that he created for the Vestry orientation on June 19. He noted that both the orientation and Sunday’s Vestry forum went very well. He also reported that several committees are still looking for new members and reminded everyone that the Mission and Strategy Committee would be holding a Focus Forum on Wednesday, June 25 with the help of the Collins group.

Randy is excited by ideas about the Diocese and Cathedral sharing and coordinating staff and facilities. He and the Bishop both agree on the importance of the institutions supporting each other and are in conversation about this. The national church will be part of the discussion, since some of their offices are moving to Seattle.

He then said that the Nominating Committee needs more members. Randy hopes that more diversity on the committee will lead to more diversity in candidates.

Randy Revelle offered to host the Vestry’s October retreat at his home on Hood Canal.

COO’s Report

We will be finalizing our agreement with the architect and beginning conversations with potential contractors over the next month. Michele Hasson suggested lining up a contractor before the architect has finished the drawings. Mary responded that this is being handled on a fast track basis and drawings will be available for the contractors before or as we seek permits.

Treasurer’s Report

Steve Moen reported on the Operating Fund summary, noting that it is posted on the bulletin board in Bloedel and will be posted on the website. As of May 31, a \$19,000 year -end budget surplus is projected, primarily because some budgeted positions are not being filled. Steve said he doubted the year would end with such a large surplus, as he predicted more staffing needs in the fall.

The Finance Committee is working with the Foundation. Several members suggested consulting John Hoerster and other founding members of the Foundation to get a historical perspective. There was discussion about the new Gift Acceptance Policy. The Finance and Stewardship committees will continue to address the meaning and structure of the policy before submitting it to the Vestry for approval.

Holy Orders

Sue Reid introduced Shelly Fayette, who seeks the Vestry's recommendation of her candidacy. Shelly is finishing her Master's of Divinity degree at Union Theological Seminary, and has been interning at St. Michael's in Yakima. Shelly discussed her many duties at St. Michael's and appreciated the opportunity to serve in a small parish with a lot of community participation. Shelly's discernment team spoke highly of her strong convictions and prophetic voice, and agreed it was a pleasure to work with her. **Proposed Resolution #P-08-HO-03 (Recommending Shelly Fayette for Candidacy) was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.**

Main Thing – Vestry Green Cathedral Task Force

Judy Andrews and Ruth Mulligan presented a proposal to make Saint Mark's a Green Cathedral, in recognition of the importance of the issue of climate change. In 1989, the Ecology and Spirituality Group was formed at the Cathedral. In 1992, Earth Ministry was founded out of that group, and now acts as a national pioneer in the religious environmental movement. They mentioned the support of the Presiding Bishop, who came to the Healing Our Planet Earth conference in Bellevue in April, and the Genesis Covenant, to be presented at General Convention in 2009, which commits to "reducing greenhouse gas emissions from every facility that we maintain by 50% in 10 years." They also spoke of Bishop Rickel's dream that our diocese be nationally known as a green diocese and the housing of the national church office of Environment and Economic Justice within our Diocese.

Judy said that Scott Gibson and others have been hoping for the Task Force and an overall plan to help in decision making throughout the Cathedral. There was some hesitation that adopting the resolution might force the Vestry into expenses for which there is no money in the budget. The resolution was amended by deleting the phrase "and implement". **The amended Resolution #P-08-GO-07, (Recommending "Greening" Task Force) was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.**

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Phil Haas, Chair, reported. The Finance Committee will be hiring a new auditing firm in July. The audit will be completed in November.

Stewardship and Development Committee

Randy Revelle, Chair, discussed the committee's plans to raise \$1.5M by the end of the year. First, the committee will be reaching out to 2008 pledgers with simple house parties before August 15. These are cultivation thank-you events and will not include solicitations. The Rev. Sue Reid has several hosts signed up already, and hopes that all Vestry members will be co-hosts. She passed out guidelines for facilitating/hosting small parties, which could be held in a home, a park, a coffee shop, or even the Cathedral. Everyone was asked to respond to Sue by July 1 with preferred date, time and location, so that she can send out email invitations. Sue said that all of the congregation will get lists of locations of house parties. As one party fills up, people will be invited to sign up for another location.

The second outreach effort will be to contact approximately 200 pledging families who have left the Cathedral in the last two years. The committee will send a one-page letter signed by Ralph, Marilyn and Randy Urmston, and include a reply postcard indicating whether the pledger is interested in talking to the clergy or renewing their relationship with the Cathedral. The committee realizes that many people won't send the postcards back, so they plan to make follow up phone calls.

The committee's third effort is to raise \$181K to meet this year's budget for major gifts and grants. A small group will be working on targeted strategies. Randy suggested having a discussion at a future date, as to whether major gifts and grants should remain as a line item in the operating budget.

Saint Mark's Celebrates Seattle will be held on October 16 honoring the Nesholms. The net goal for the gala luncheon is \$123,000. The Stewardship office will oversee this event, as the Stewardship committee will be in the midst of the Annual Campaign. Vestry members will be asked to be table captains.

This year's Annual Campaign will be chaired by Randy Revelle (representing Vestry), Penny Reid (Parish) and Marilyn (clergy). They are going to have a brainstorming meeting on July 10, to discuss what worked well last year. This year, the work of the committee will emphasize stewardship, and the care and nurturing of gifts of time, talent AND treasure. Randy suggested that the committee be renamed Stewardship Committee. He assured the Vestry that the committee will still involve fundraising and development activities. **A motion to rename the committee to Stewardship Committee was made, seconded and passed unanimously. (Subsequently numbered Resolution #08-GO-08)**

Facilities Committee

In the absence of Chair, Carol Hoerster, Barbara Erickson reported that the photo albums of deferred maintenance projects will be ready for Homecoming Sunday. Kathleen Croston has joined the Facilities Committee.

Governance Committee

Margaret Rothschild, Chair, reported the committee now numbers 10. She is hoping that Jordan Gross will be involved. Margaret acknowledged that that committee's work will take a long time. Their next meeting will be July 15 at 4:30, in Bloedel conference room (*Update*: the meeting will be in Leffler Living Room).

Personnel Committee

Herb Williams, Chair, reported that Terry Brandon had joined the committee, which now has the minimum required number of Vestry members (2).

Open Mike

Ralph and Sue announced that there will be a Cathedral staff, Vestry, clergy and congregation retreat on September 13, with the topic of "our next step."

Closing Prayer

Ralph led prayers for Phil and Janet, who are having surgeries this week.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

**The next meeting will be the annual joint Vestry/foundation meeting Tuesday, July 22, 2008 at 6pm.
The Vestry will host the joint dinner at 5pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Lenker
Recording Secretary

Liz Sloat
Executive Assistant to the Priest in Charge