



FEBRUARY VESTRY MEETING

MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2008 – 6pm to 8pm.
St. Nicholas Bldg, Rm 216

Vestry Members Present

Carol Hoerster, Senior Warden
Jordan Gross, Junior Warden*
Sam Fleshman
Diane Stevens*
Herb Williams
Randy Urmston
Margaret Rothschild
Barbara Erickson*
Connie Espe*
Kate O'Sullivan
Phil Haas
Randy Revelle
* =outgoing member as of this meeting

Vestry Members Absent

Bob Muglia, Junior Warden
Miller Adams
Rev. LaVerne Hall*
Michele Hasson
Bishop Greg Rickel
Antonio Foglia
Sandy Brown

Officers Present

John Hoerster, Chancellor

Officers Absent

Tracy Garland, Treasurer

Staff Members Present

Ryan Marriott, Manager,
Stewardship & Development
Liz Sloat, Executive Assistant to Dean
Virginia Lenker, Recording Secretary &
Intern, Development Office
Rev. Marilyn Cornwell

Staff Members Absent

Dean Robert Taylor

Guests

Paul Johns, Hisako Beasley, Mary Mullen,
Jan Condit, Elsie Ford, Diana Wright

Call to Order

Carol Hoerster called meeting to order and thanked Herb and Margaret for the refreshments.

Spiritual Reflection

Rev. Marilyn Cornwell led a reflection from the book *Kitchen Table Wisdom*, reminding us that prayer takes us beyond fear. She also assured the Vestry that they are surrounded by prayers.

Introductions

Carol asked guests and Vestry members to introduce themselves. She then named the new members, who were unable to attend: Diocesan Rep. Antonio Foglia from Tacoma, and Community Rep. Sandy Brown.

Action Item

Consent Agenda

Jordan clarified that outgoing Vestry members do not vote tonight, and new members do.

The Vestry accepted the Consent Agenda consisting of the following:

- ? Approval of Minutes of January 22, 2008 Vestry Meeting
- ? Receipt of Reports/Notes/Minutes of Meetings of Vestry Committees
 - o Mission & Strategy Committee minutes – 1/30
 - o Stewardship & Development Committee minutes – 2/20
- ? Receipt of Master Planning Task Force minutes – 12/13

Proposed Resolution #P07-HO-07 (Stephen McHale-Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate)

Marilyn explained that the “Transitional Diaconate” is a step toward being trained as a priest. She and Connie gave very positive reports of Stephen McHale, currently a seminarian, who had passed all tests with top marks and had his Personal Discernment Committee’s highest recommendation.

The Resolution was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Proposed Resolution #P07-GO-08 (Jubilee Congregation)

Carol recommended, and the members agreed, to postpone the vote on this resolution. Current members had been occupied with recent events and had not had time to adequately read the materials and incoming Vestry members needed time to read the materials. Betsy Bell, who had presented the resolution, had been consulted and concurred. Randy Urmston reminded the group of Connie’s suggestion at the January meeting of educating the congregation through the year and then providing a checkbox on next year’s Annual Campaign pledge forms, giving families the option to donate one dollar to Jubilee.

Reports/Discussion

Senior Warden’s Report

Resignations and replacements: Carol reported that the Vestry will receive formal statements from Ben Porter and Paula Clapp about their resignations. She said she had tried to discourage Ben and Paula from resigning, without success.

Carol then gave Robert’s recommendations for replacements for the unexpired terms. The Chancellor responded to a question saying that in recommending names the Dean is not obligated to go to the slate of nominees from the Annual Meeting. Discussion ensued on the proposed candidates, including whether to postpone the vote until next month.

The Vestry went into Executive Session for the majority of the discussion.

After the public meeting resumed, the Vestry approved Susan Lewis’s nomination, as her name had been presented by the Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting.

Resolution to approve Susan Lewis to fill Paula Clapp’s unexpired term was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

The Vestry agreed to postpone voting on the nominee to fill Ben Porter’s unexpired term until the Vestry Workday on March 15, when more information could be provided about the nominee. (*n.b. See “Open Mike” below where it was agreed by all present, including guests, that the name would remain confidential.*)

Staff meeting: Carol thanked Randy Urmston for visiting a Saint Mark’s staff meeting. Randy said they are doing a great job, have a lot of energy, but need a leader, especially on the Finance Committee.

Listening Sessions: Carol reported that she, Marilyn and the Pastoral Care Concerns group were planning two Listening Sessions with Vestry, staff and congregation during the first week of March. Marilyn had suggested having an outside facilitator. This would be an opportunity to listen and gather information and not a time for dialogue, since the Vestry is in the midst of sensitive negotiations. Marilyn asked all Vestry members to attend if possible.

Vestry Orientation and Workday: New Vestry Member Orientation will be on March 4. Carol hoped all members would attend since last year’s incoming members did not have an orientation and she thought it would be a useful refresher for the others. Saturday, March 15 is the Vestry Workday.

Foundation: Carol noted that the Saint Mark’s Foundation had given the Cathedral over \$600,000 in the past several years—an impressive commitment. This year, it is the Vestry’s turn to host the annual

Vestry/Foundation dinner and meeting. She also reported that Jean Leed, Foundation Board member, and Michele Hasson have revamped Saint Mark's gift acceptance policy and will present it at a future meeting.

Nancy Pearson: Carol concluded by recognizing Nancy Pearson's wonderful and calm assistance to the Vestry, and her service on the Master Planning Task Force and the Finance Committee. Randy Urmston added how sad the Facilities Committee and entire staff are that she is leaving. Randy Urmston and Herb Williams will plan something to honor her service.

Master Planning Task Force

Randy Urmston reported that the Task Force is waiting for the Mission and Strategy Committee to update the Strategic Plan. The next step will be to get input from the congregation. He said the Task Force was committed in their task to "To Fix Up the Cathedral So It Doesn't Fall Down."

Main Thing - Comments from Departing Vestry Members.

Barbara Erickson said it had been a joy to be back on Vestry, and she had made a lot of new friends. She advised the group to remember their love of this place and the importance of maintaining a balance between Saint Mark's and home life. Carol thanked her for serving as Vestry Clerk for 3 years, and her work in putting together the Deferred Maintenance list. Barbara said it was satisfying that so many items had been addressed. She wished Randy well as he took over the chair of the Facilities Committee.

Connie Espe revealed that three years ago she had been unable to attend Diocesan Convention and had been surprised to hear that she had been elected to this Vestry anyway! She appreciated the amount of love and caring at Saint Mark's and said the reason the noise level was sometimes high was because people were so devoted. Carol responded that she had been comforted knowing that Connie's home congregation had gone through hard times and weathered the storm.

Diane Stevens agreed that this had been an enriching experience in many ways. She appreciated the many hard decisions since last spring which had engaged the congregation in the work of the Vestry. For her, the community matters most of all. She reminded members to be compassionate in decisions, be engaged, be steadfast, be vigilant, listen and ask questions, and be clear and proactive in communicating with the congregation. Carol said she appreciated Diane's positive support, her work on the Stewardship and Development Committee, and on *Saint Mark's Celebrates Seattle*.

Jordan Gross agreed with Barbara on the importance of achieving work/life balance. She was impressed by everyone's extraordinary efforts and had been proud and honored to be part of this Vestry during an extremely difficult year. She advised everyone to be persistent in asking questions and get all the information they needed. She also asked everyone to be compassionate with each other and to listen to each other. Carol added her appreciation of Jordan's leadership on the Personnel Committee—especially on increasing staff salaries—and her support as Junior Warden.

Open Mike

Answering a question from a guest, John requested that everyone keep the name of the second Vestry nominee confidential, since it was possible that they might not even know their name had been put forward. Everyone in the room unanimously agreed.

Carol said that she is not intending to remain as Senior Warden, but the Vestry must wait for the Dean to appoint someone to that position.

Mary Mullen expressed her concern about the current lack of leadership on and backlog of work for the Finance Committee. This led to a brief discussion about what Vestry committee positions need to be filled. Jordan recommended new members read the Vestry notebook to learn about standing committees. More information will be available at the Vestry Orientation and Vestry Workday. A guest recommended the Vestry Handbook produced by the National Episcopal Church.

Guests thanked the Vestry for extraordinary service and exhaustive hours.

Closing Prayer

In her closing prayer, Kate O'Sullivan thanked God for love, healing and strength.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Lenker
Recording Secretary

Susan Lewis
Senior Warden