



FEBRUARY VESTRY RETREAT

Tuesday, February 20, 2010
Randy Revelle's home, Gilberton WA; 9 a.m.-5p.m.

Vestry Members Present

Phil Haas, Sr. Warden
Randy Revelle, Jr. Warden
Nancy Jacobs
Marge Anderson
Janet McCully
Patty Baker
Erik Anderson
Joan Anthony, Bishop's Rep
Katie Bishop
Dale Ramerman
Scott Smallwood
Roger Valdez

Vestry Members Absent

Dennis Andersen
Terry Brandon
Bob Kirkman
Stacy Anderson.
Bishop Greg Rickel

Staff Members Present

Rev. Rebecca McClain, Canon Missioner

Officers Present

John Hoerster, Chancellor
Jonathan Nicholas, Treasurer

Officers Absent

Virginia Lenker, Clerk

Call to Order, Welcome, Orientation, and Ice Breaker

Randy provided an orientation on the history of and ground rules for his home. Rebecca called the meeting to order, offered a prayer, and led an ice breaker exercise in which each member introduced himself by name, role, status as lark/owl, and affinity to water/forest/mountains. There was a high incidence of owls attracted to water.

Review of Strategic Plan

Phil Haas, Senior Warden, summarized the Saint Mark's Cathedral Strategic Plan for 2009-11, noting that its five strategic targets drive the structure of Vestry Committees for this new year:

- Building & Hospitality
- Faith Formation and Congregational Life
- Church in the World
- Diocesan Relations
- Sustainable Stewardship (which includes the Stewardship Committee, Finance Committee, and Joint Investment Committee)
- Governance Committee
- Vestry representation to Foundation Board

He noted that a major portion of the retreat agenda involves three breakout sessions to discern 2010 priorities for Building & Hospitality, Church in the World, and Diocesan Relations.

Teachable Moment

Rebecca noted that we are called to make a difference in the world in all aspects of life (welcome, inspire, serve, and transform) and recommended two books on the evolution of the church: Michael Gates Gill's *How Starbucks Saved My Life* and Reggie McNeal's *Mission Renaissance*. The church is moving from conversation regarding the emerging church to a changing face. We must have a deep sense of humility as we are reborn into a place of heart

that makes a difference. We must let go of things previously considered important. She noted that “My job is to leave us and to leave us equipped for a more resilient and robust life so that we can adjust quickly to a radically changing world.” This requires creativity as we let go of ongoing critical analysis that leads to polarization.

Joan Anthony noted that Bishop Rickel gave Rebecca the title of Canon Missioner rather than Acting Dean because he sought a special relationship with the Cathedral during this transition as we become an example, a model, and a testing ground while developing what we need in a Dean. During this time we must discern what it means to be a Christian in the 21st century. She noted that the time to call a new Dean will be after we emerge from our strategic plan as a transition process and complete deliberate work to determine what the Holy Spirit wants at Saint Mark’s Cathedral.

Breakout Sessions and Reports

Facilities and Hospitality: Eric reported that this year’s priorities are:

- Update the deferred maintenance list to incorporate what has been completed and what should be added, projected costs, prioritization, and celebration.
- Define the process to develop and fund a medium to long range master plan, leveraging the historical work done in Century II and the Master Planning Task Force and bringing in fresh design talent.
- Planning for the raising of capital to do the needed work on a timeline to be determined.

Diocesan Relations: Nancy reported the consensus of the group:

- Under the new church model, old rules no longer apply.
- It is important to discern what people think about the relationship between Saint Mark’s Cathedral and the Diocese by querying small groups, Saint Mark’s, Diocesan House staff, and Convention. The conversation can then be broadened to other parishes.
- It might be possible to bring Convention back to Saint Mark’s
- Explore working Diocese/Cathedral relationships in other dioceses with the Bishop’s help.
- Focus on why, rather than what to do: what can the Cathedral do well that can be shared? Possibilities include social justice issues and worship and music.
- Most smaller congregations don’t know anything about the Cathedral (a 15-20 year trend)
- Concern must be greater than the funding supplement in the Diocesan budget
- Should consider flags or banners from the parishes of the Diocese of Olympia

Outreach/Church in the World: Roger reported that focusing our ministries of outreach is best accomplished through Vestry representation on the Church in the World Coordinating Committee, which has historically focused on discernment for new ministries, support of existing ministries, and letting go of dying ministries. Given that the Church in the World grant has ended, the Vestry needs to become more involved in Church in the World than has previously been the case. Priorities for 2010 include:

- Evaluation and sorting of ministries relative to our mission (welcome, inspire, serve, and transform), issues (e.g. homeless or human sexuality), church/cathedral/commons, proximity (local, diocese, national, international), and effectiveness.
- Determine what we are and want to be known for as church, cathedral, and commons
- Develop policies and procedures on fundraising by other organizations at the Cathedral and determine how we should raise funds for the major missions to which we are committed.

Vestry Committee Structure, Leadership, and Officers for 2010

- The Vestry unanimously confirmed Rebecca’s appointment of Katie Bishop as Community Representative.
- The Vestry agreed on the attached committee structure, leadership, and participation for 2010-11.
- The Vestry unanimously elected Randy Revelle and Janet McCully as Junior Wardens and re-elected Jonathan Nicholas as Treasurer and Virginia Lenker as Clerk for 2010-11.
- Rebecca reappointed John Hoerster as Chancellor for 2010-11.

E-Mail Best Practices

Rebecca recommended the following practices: avoid “send all,” do not forward e-mails without permission, use the bcc line, and don’t criticize others in e-mails.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Rebecca led evening prayer and the meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip J. Haas
Senior Warden