



APRIL VESTRY MEETING

Tuesday, April 27, 2010
Council Room, Diocesan House, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Vestry Members Present

Phil Haas, Sr. Warden
Janet McCully, Jr. Warden
Stacy Andersen
Marge Anderson
Katie Bishop
Nancy Jacobs
Bob Kirkman
Dale Ramerman
Patty Baker
Scott Smallwood
Roger Valdez

Vestry Members Absent

Terry Brandon
Bishop Greg Rickel
Dennis Andersen
Erik Anderson
Joan Anthony, Bishop's Rep
Randy Revelle, Jr. Warden

Officers Present

John Hoerster, Chancellor
Virginia Lenker, Clerk
Jonathan Nicholas, Treasurer

Staff Members Present

Rev. Rebecca McClain, Canon Missioner
Liz Sloat, Vestry Support
Alan De Puy, Clerke of the Works

Guests

Ruth Mulligan, Judy Andrews,
Katrina Morgan, Katie Oman,
Rene Marceau, Simon Woodruff,
Jean Leed, Mary Mullin, Leslie Miller,
Betsy Bell

Call to Order and Spiritual Reflection

Rebecca called the meeting to order and thanked Bob and Janet for providing refreshments. Ruth Mulligan, Co-Chair of Green Cathedral Task Force, offered a prayer of thanks for all of God's creation.

Action Items

The Vestry accepted the Consent Agenda consisting of the following:

- Approval of Minutes March 23 Vestry meeting
- Receipt of Reports/Notes/Minutes of Meetings of Vestry Committees
 - Stewardship retreat: 2/27

Vestry Orientation – Part III – Judy Andrews, chancellor of the diocese

Judy discussed the legal obligations of being a member of the Vestry. Not only must members of a non-profit board adhere to state and federal laws, Vestry members must also follow laws and regulations—known as canons—of the diocese and national church. The parish has its own by-laws, articles of incorporation, and constitution. A Vestry member must make “prudent” decisions and should use his or her specific skills, such as attorney or accountant. Judy noted the importance of attending meetings, reading the information, and asking questions. There was discussion about extensive and complicated regulations that affect us as a tax exempt organization.

Committee Reports and Updates

Green Cathedral Task Force (GCTF) – Ruth Mulligan and Judy Andrews, co-chairs.

Katrina Morgan and Katie Oman of Fermata Consulting distributed paper copies of their PowerPoint report. The GCTF was formed approx 18 months ago by Vestry resolution 08-GO-08, “to make the cathedral a leader in supporting sustainable living and organization operations.” The national church's Genesis Covenant calls for the 50% reduction of greenhouse gases in 10 years, “from every facility that we maintain.” Saint Mark's Strategic Plan and Targets tie into this effort. Many improvements have already been made. The committee's goals are to: engage our community; set an example by setting a standard; and achieve measurable results.

A motion to approve Resolution #P10-GO-03 (Establish a Sustainability Committee of the Vestry), was made and seconded. The Sustainability Committee would continue the work of GCTF (which ends tonight) and present a Sustainability Plan in 18 months. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Governance—Janet McCully and Judy Andrews co-chairs

Janet distributed a report from January's on-line survey about Vestry structure. Out of 97 survey responses, a majority favored eliminating the community rep positions and replacing with parish reps. The primary concerns are that Vestry doesn't have enough parish representation, and that community reps are sometimes less engaged. John Hoerster discussed the history of community reps and the process of changing our governance structures. He distributed handouts on the subject from 2004, 2008, and 2009, as well as proposed updates to the bylaws and constitution. The proposals include continuing with Diocesan reps, though the requirement of a 'double slate' will be hard to meet since it has been difficult to find more than one candidate each year for election at convention. Community reps are appointed by the dean/canon missionary. Since Saint Mark's members are not excluded from this category, the most recent ones (Erik and Katie) have been selected from our parish. Bob suggested that the community rep structure has not really been given a chance, and continuing outreach and outside perspective is still very important. Stacy suggested appointing non-parishioners to the specific committees where their skills and connection to the community might foster greater participation. Bob and Dale noted an inconsistency with letting the Bishop's representative vote when the bishop himself does not want to have a vote. Judy suggested that the bishop's rep would be a more engaged member of the Vestry if he/she has a vote.

Janet invited everyone to attend the parish forum on Sun. May 2 at 12:30 pm to discuss the proposed bylaw changes drafted by John and the committee. The Vestry will vote on the issue at next month's meeting.

Finance—Bob Kirkman, chair

Bob addressed the resolution to dissolve the Joint Investment Committee. He noted that Bob Moser led a rigorous process to engage an investment advisor, Cascade Group of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney to oversee both the Cathedral and Foundation's investments, however, the Cathedral and the Foundation have concluded that going forward it will be more efficient for each group to manage its own funds.

A motion to approve Joint Resolution #P10-FI-01 (Dissolve Joint Investment Committee) was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Phil noted that the Foundation board passed the resolution at their April 26 meeting.

Jonathan distributed the Cathedral's operating fund summary for Jan-March 2010. YTD variable expenses are significantly above budget. The finance committee is working with Deborah Sturm, accounting manager, to determine what these numbers include and what course-corrections might be involved to maintain a balanced budget. Bob noted that next year's annual campaign must raise an additional \$150K, to make up for two grants which expire this year. The finance committee is working on updating their investment policy.

Church in the World—Marge Anderson, chair

Marge is continuing conversations with CIW coordinating committee. The Sabeel conference's payment for use of the Cathedral's facilities did not cover actual costs.

Diocesan Relations—Nancy Jacob, chairs

The committee will research cathedral-parish relationships in other dioceses. Nancy asked if there is a written description for diocesan reps, as mentioned in Governance committee's handout (dated 2004). John did not know of one.

Canon Missioner's Report

Operations Review

The Rev. David Mesenbring will be helping Rebecca with personnel transition issues and realigning staffing, especially since Marilyn has left the Cathedral (she was called to be rector of Ascension parish). The Revs. Helen Harper and Pat Taylor will help with preaching rotation. Deacon Earl Grout will be focusing on

pastoral care. Susan Knirk is moving into a stewardship-training position. A new team is working to coordinate volunteers.

Attendance

In general, attendance is holding status-quo. There are many visitors. Easter Vigil had over 400 people-substantial increase which impressed even 'the regulars'. Easter services went up, comparable to 2006 and 2007 levels.

Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT)

A report of the on-line survey was presented on Sun. April 25, 2-4pm in Bloedel Hall. Russ Crabtree of Holy Cow Consulting will provide a written summary report. Rebecca distributed a handout explaining the term "rector-centric," meaning that the way people feel about their church often reflects the way they feel about the rector.

Parochial Report

Dale is a member of diocesan finance committee, and reads the parochial reports. He pointed out that some line items important in calculating the 2011 diocesan assessment were missing from the "Net Disposable Income for Assessment" report. After discussion, the Vestry asked Rebecca and staff to research the correct figures, and bring the corrected Parochial Report to next month's Vestry meeting.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Marge read prayers for rain and for good weather from the 1928 prayer book. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

The next meeting is Tues. May 25 at 6:30 in Council Room, Diocesan House.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Lenker
Recording Secretary and Clerk

Liz Sloat
Vestry Support