



DECEMBER VESTRY MEETING

Tuesday, December 20, 2011
Council Room, Diocesan House, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Refreshments: Liz Sloat

Vestry Members Present

Scott Smallwood, Sr. Warden
Stacy Andersen, Jr. Warden
Janet McCully, Jr. Warden
Joan Anthony, Bishop's Rep
Marge Anderson
Patty Baker
Kae Eaton
Mark Eichinger-Wiese
Elsie Ford
Bob Kirkman
Leslie Miller
Dale Ramerman
Walter Stuteville
Hunter Tynes
Roger Valdez

Vestry Members Absent

Rebecca Kirkpatrick
Bishop Greg Rickel

Officers Present

John Hoerster, Chancellor
Virginia Lenker, Clerk
Phil Lloyd, Treasurer

Staff Members Present

Rev. Rebecca McClain
Rev. David Mesenbring
Liz Sloat, Vestry Support
Karen Smythers, Accounting Manager
Rev. Irene Tanabe

Guests

Helen Harper, Barry Johnson,
Sandy McCloud, Ruth McRee,
Steve Moen, Keith Moore,
Mary Mullen, Jim Mulligan,
Ruth Mulligan, Dewey Walker,
Rev. Mike Jackson, Rev. Pat Taylor

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Scott called the meeting to order and asked Vestry and guests to introduce themselves. Rebecca prayed for deep listening and careful stewardship.

Action Items

The Vestry accepted the Consent Agenda consisting of the following:

- Approval of Minutes November 22 Vestry meeting with the following correction: "Following recent tradition the Vestry will appoint the candidate who receives the fifth highest number of votes at the Annual Meeting to fill the remaining two years of Elsie's term."
- Receipt of Reports/Notes/Minutes of Meetings of Vestry Committees
 - Stewardship: 11/17, 12/1
 - Governance 12/13

Old Business

Finance Committee Charter draft

Walter distributed an outline of the committee's purpose, duties and structure. The document has gone through several versions, with input from Governance and Finance Committees. John will review it for compliance with the Cathedral Bylaws. He and Bob reminded everyone that only Vestry members may vote on certain functions, such as "determine the percentage of funds to be drawn out of endowments." A final version will be voted on at the January meeting.

New Business

Tent City 3 request

The coordinators of Tent City 3 have asked Saint Mark's to host the encampment from Sat. March 24—Tues. June 11, 2012. Easter falls on Sun. April 8. Tent City would arrive the week before Holy Week. Members of the Homeless Advocacy Ministry will make a presentation at the January meeting.

Faith Action Network (FAN), previously Washington Association of Churches and Lutheran Public Policy Office

Stacy distributed a brochure of this interfaith network of congregations whose purpose is to assist congregations in advocating for social justice by educating and organizing letter writing campaigns, rallies and other activities. FAN's annual fundraiser, with Rick Steves as keynote speaker, was held in Bloedel on Dec. 3. The Vestry will discuss joining FAN at our January meeting.

Facilities Committee

Stacy and others have suggested this committee should stand on its own, rather than falling under the Sustainability Committee's umbrella. A draft charter will be brought to the January meeting for a vote.

Bank transfer

The Vestry received a request from a parishioner to transfer Cathedral's banking accounts out of Bank of America and into a community bank, as has been done recently by many area churches. Karen will report to Vestry in January.

Focus Topics and Reports

Nominating and Leadership Committee – *Steve Moen, Chair*

The bishop has appointed Alice Reid, former Saint Mark's parishioner and current member of St. Thomas Medina, to join the cathedral's Nominating and Leadership Committee. Laura Poston is the other diocesan rep. to the committee. Other committee members are *Barbara Erickson, Anita Lammert, Pearl McElheran, Mary Mullen, Tyler Stahl, Diane Stevens, Tom Weaver, and Rebecca McClain.*

A motion to approve the bishop's appointment of Alice Reid to the Nominations and Leadership Committee was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Vestry Slate

Cathedral bylaws require a double slate to replace the members whose terms expire at the Annual Meeting (Marge, Mark, Bob, and Janet). Rebecca noted most parishes do not have a double slate requirement, which often has an undesired effect: those who are not elected are reluctant to stand for election again. The committee recruited and interviewed many candidates, including several nominated by the parish. Many potential candidates declined or withdrew, mainly due to time requirements. Steve presented the following slate and stressed that everyone is very well qualified: *Jo Ann Bailey, Steve Bates, Maria Coldwell, Mark Eichinger-Wiese, Kasey Frix, Richard Hodsdon, Tamara Kincaid, and Michael Lenington.* Brochures with bios and photos will be available, in addition to forums Sun. Jan 15 and 22 to help parishioners get acquainted with candidates.

The Vestry voted at the November meeting to appoint the candidate who receives the fifth highest number of votes at the Annual Meeting to fill the remaining two years of Elsie's term following recent tradition.

Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Per bylaws, a single slate of six men and six women will be presented at the Annual Meeting: *Seyi Akanni, Virginia Lenker, Lynn Markova, Janet McCully, Barbara Selberg, Elisabeth Wortmann, Bret Bowton-Meade, Ian Ford, Robert Hayden, Kevin Johnson, Doug Young,* and one more man to be named shortly. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. Delegates serve a two year term.

Occupy Seattle

Prior to tonight's meeting, Scott distributed a Memorandum of Understanding between Saint Mark's Cathedral and Members of Occupy Seattle (OS), regarding an OS request to host tents for their administrative activities in our south parking lot.

The Vestry went into Executive Session to discuss the request from Occupy Seattle.

In General Session, Scott invited Vestry members to give their responses and opinions. Several members stressed Vestry's fiduciary responsibilities and were uncomfortable with OS's lack of clear leadership structure, as well as their lack of a non-violence policy. Some suggested a church should not use its financial resources to support an overtly political movement. They noted OS's divisive nature and implications that those who don't support the Occupy movement are somehow less Christian. Many noted the Cathedral cannot support extra expense at this time, and had practical concerns about both liability and staff morale. Rev. Mike Jackson noted growing support for Occupy movement in faith communities both in Seattle and across the country. He, Rebecca and many others noted the Cathedral's long-time commitment to social justice, and suggested the OS request was a good wake-up call to continue addressing issues of social and economic disparities.

A motion was made and seconded for Vestry to pursue an agreement with OS for use of Saint Mark's property along the lines of the draft Memorandum of Understanding. The motion failed, two votes for, 13 votes against, no abstentions. Janet praised the Vestry's calm and respectful discussion

A motion to appoint Rev. Michael Jackson as Saint Mark's Cathedral's liaison to OS "to keep communication lines open" was made and seconded. The motion passed, with three abstentions.

A motion to pass a resolution of support for OS, reflecting a similar resolution recently adopted by the national church's executive council, was made and seconded. The motion was postponed for discussion at a future meeting.

Godly Play – Leslie Miller

Due to time constraints, Leslie had to shorten her presentation. She led the group in the Prayer of Three Deep Breaths, for the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Reports

Cathedral Foundation – Janet McCully

Vestry appointments

Per Foundation bylaws, the Vestry must appoint two members for the election slate at the Foundation Board's upcoming Annual Meeting. The board consists of 15 members who serve staggered three-year terms. Five members are appointed by the Vestry, five by the Foundation Board, and five by the Bishop.

A motion to approve Mac Brown and Kathy Thompson for election to Foundation Board was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship - Rebecca McClain

As of today, 360 pledges have been received for a total of \$845,802. There were 503 pledges at the end of last year's campaign in December. The Stewardship Committee and others appreciated a new style of pledge campaign this year, and hope not to return to a long "begging" season. Rebecca expected pledges to continue through January, but suggested that this year's campaign will be lower than last year's. Scott reminded Vestry members to support Stewardship Committee by making reminder phone calls. Rebecca noted continued poor job market, and also suggested that some major donors have decreased their pledges due to "fatigue of carrying an excessive burden." Starting in January, Finance Committee and Vestry will communicate with parish re: budget specifics and potential consequences.

Call Committee -Mark Eichinger-Wiese

The committee has met to discuss procedures and confidentiality requirements. Susan Knirk will serve as chair. John Neitzel and Re Knack will communicate with the parish, and Mark will communicate to Vestry. As a reminder, Joan will send the committee a list of 10-15 candidates in late January. The committee hopes to present the final candidate's name to the Vestry by late May, and the new dean will probably start work in September.

Vestry's Charge to the Call Committee

Scott distributed a draft document of procedures for the committee to follow in evaluating candidates. Bob suggested the priority objective should be "*seeking and recognizing qualities in a candidate consistent with those published in the Parish Profile.*"

A motion to approve the Vestry's Charge to the Call Committee was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance

The Vestry went into Executive Session to discuss the proposed budget. Walter invited members of the Finance Committee to remain in the meeting as advisers.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Lenker
Recording Secretary and Clerk

Liz Sloat
Vestry Support

Upcoming events:

- Sun. Jan 15 and 22, 2012 – Vestry candidate forums, Bloedel Hall, time TBD
- Tues. Jan 24 – Vestry meeting, 6pm, Council Room, Diocesan House
- Sun. Jan 29 – Annual parish meeting, 12:45pm, Bloedel Hall
- Tues. Feb. 7 – New Vestry orientation
- Fri-Sat. Feb 10-11 – Vestry retreat, location TBD