

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
Vestry Regular Meeting, Tuesday, April 26, 2011
Minutes

Attendees:

Mary Kate Rejouis+, Rector
Kay Cook+, Priest Associate
Grace Pierce, Senior Warden
Joe Bowers
Heather Corsentino
Anne Doyle
Kandace Einbeck
Betsy Matteson
Amy Paine, Treasurer
Diane Perry
Barbara Williams
Karen De Sousa, Parish Clerk
Donna Colville, Assistant Treasurer, on speaker phone

Guests: Larry Hitt, Chancellor of the Diocese-visitor

Absent: Craig Autry, Stephanie Sokolov, Keith Murdock, Don Burt, Deacon

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mother Mary Kate, and a quorum was present. After introductions and prayer, M. Mary Kate asked Larry Hitt to speak.

Larry Hitt, the Chancellor of the Diocese, met with the Vestry to address a request that the Vestry approve the reclassification of a 2010 gift to the parish as a loan, rather than a gift.

Hitt reported that the Rector asked for assistance from the Bishop's office a few weeks after she agreed to a request from the donor of an anonymous gift (who had decided to leave the parish five weeks after he made his gift) that the donation be reclassified as a loan.

Hitt said that on approximately October 6, 2010, a donor who requested anonymity gave a \$35,000 gift to the parish to help it get through a serious cash flow crunch. Approximately 5 weeks later, the donor elected to leave the parish and resigned from all positions of leadership.

The Rector agreed to acknowledge the \$35,000 as a loan and the gift was converted to a loan in the parish's financial records. It was also designated as a "note payable to WS" on the 2010 financial statement which was presented to the congregation at the parish's annual meeting.

The rector was not authorized by the Vestry to agree to reclassify the gift as a loan and the Rector has taken full responsibility for doing so and has apologized for her error.

In light of the request to approve the reclassification of the gift to a loan, it is necessary to identify the source of the funds--William Sweeney. He has asked that the "loan" be paid back immediately.

There is no promissory note or any formal document which would identify with precision the terms of the loan.

The Chancellor also noted that the Bishop, who has offered pastoral assistance to the Rector so that she can learn from this experience, continues to have great confidence in her.

In light of this unusual situation, and particularly because Mr. Sweeney left St. Aidan's shortly after his donation, the Bishop recommends that the Vestry approve the reclassification from a gift to a loan, and attempt to pay it off as soon as possible.

After discussion, Grace Pierce moved and Joe Bowers seconded that the vestry approve the reclassification of Mr. Sweeney's \$35,000 gift to a loan, and attempt to pay it off as soon as possible. The motion passed unanimously. The Vestry asked the Finance Committee, and particularly Treasurer Amy Paine, to advise the Vestry at its next meeting about a plan for repayment.

Information The Demolition committee is proceeding with a meeting with Landmarks Board on next Wednesday night, May 4, 2011. The audit for St. Aidan's should also start next week. Mother Mary Kate's maternity leave is to start on September 4, 2011. Her duties will be covered by a combination of Mother Kay increasing her hours, Deacon Don assisting and a supply priest, the Rev. Ed Morgan. Carol Rasmussen will become Canterbury Coordinator.

Upcoming events include an indoor/outdoor work day on Saturday, May 21 and an outdoor work day on Saturday, June 4. And, happily, the Chapman/Pomeroy wedding June 18.

Discussion

Financial report from Amy Paine and Donna Colville show that St Aidan's is doing better than budget by \$18,000 at this point, because of additional cash flow from football parking and some savings on expenses. After some debate, Grace Pierce move to approve of the report and seconded by Barb Williams. All approved.

It was also resolved that the finance should rewrite the note with the Endowment Fund and the amortization schedule, and to commence payments for 2011 as soon as possible.

Barb Williams moved and Joe Bowers seconded that the 2011 management letter between Canterbury and St. Aidan's be accepted. All were in favor.

Heather Corsentino moved and Grace Pierce seconded that the Canterbury Board of Stewards reappoint Kelly Fowler and Grace Pierce and accept the reappointment of Tucker Nunn from St. Ambrose Episcopal Church. All approved.

Minutes from March were accepted with no changes.

Canterbury students and Canterbury Board are requesting that the five o'clock service time be used for other activities. They would rather attend the parish's Sunday morning services in order to have more connections and friendships with parishioners. The Sunday five o'clock would be used for activities such as Christian formation and life skills classes. It is a matter of using our resources most efficiently.

This summer the service schedule will be for one service again. There have been positive comments that people enjoy seeing friends who attend different services and the feeling of community is more spiritual. Anne Doyle questioned if we should keep the one service time in the fall. This is also a possible change to be made at a future time.

Upcoming in June and July, vestry member will host cottage meetings for 10 to 12 parishioners.

Blessings: our meeting tonight and guidance from Larry Hitt, music on Easter., the 5 o'clock pot luck meal for Easter, a Great Easter season, \$79,000 in the bank, loving support for Mike and Rebecca Riedeman, St. Aidan's being able to support BOHO, and finally, considering Vestry to be long when it goes for 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Vestry was adjourned at 9:15 with a prayer from M Kay.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen De Sousa
Parish Clerk