

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
Vestry Regular Meeting – 22 June 2010
Minutes

Attendees:

Mary Kate Réjouis+, Rector
Grace Pierce, Senior Warden
Matt Clark, Junior Warden
Reynolds Crawford, Treasurer
Anne Doyle
Kandace Einbeck
John Moore
Keith Murdock
Diane Perry

Also:

Don Burt, Deacon
William Sweeney, Parish Clerk

Absent

Kay Cook+, Priest Associate
Lisa Autry
Joe Bowers
Stephanie Sokolov
Barb Williams

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mother Mary Kate, and a quorum was present.

FORMATION

The vestry began by reading the third chapter of the first letter to the Corinthians, and Mother Mary Kate taught and led discussion and led the Vestry in prayer.

INFORMATION

Repairs and improvements to the parish and Canterbury websites are underway by John Moore.

The Réjouises are preparing to move into the house at 2700 University Heights. Surprisingly, after much planning by the Canterbury and parish finance committees and the Board of Stewards, the plan to establish a lease between Canterbury and the Réjouises will leave both the parish and Canterbury budgets unchanged.

Scott Filkin, president of intervarsity's Graduate Christian Fellowship, will keep an office in the Youth Room.

Sara Parkinson and Amanda Nuku will return to work after maternity leaves.

The vestry's members whose terms end in 2012 announced a plan for a fall stewardship process.

Deacon Don Burt discussed a proposal (attached) for providing overnight shelter for the portion of Boulder's homeless population that cannot be accommodated in the Shelter on very cold and stormy winter nights. He will meet with many groups in the parish to discuss this possible plan.

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Keith Murdock discussed the Open Mic nights and the new approach to music at the 5:00 services.

Grace Pierce announced the Parent's Night Out plan for Friday, July 9.

JK Melton has offered a proposal for a plan to serve St. Aidan's and St. John's as a lay leader for campus and young adult ministries – the plan is attached.

Reynolds Crawford announced that he and his family would be moving to Jamaica, and that he would be resigning as treasurer; Bill Sweeney has offered to serve as interim Treasurer for the remainder of this year.

Finally, the calendar for welcome/welcome back events for CU for August 17 through 26 was announced.

DISCUSSION

Capital repair/improvement projects for this summer include repairs to the roof, the parking lot and the tile floor of meeting room A/B. A capital funding of about \$50,000 is needed. The matter had been to Building and Grounds and to Finance for review and their advice was to fund the projects with a short-term capital fund drive. The vestry approved capital expenses for the repairs to the roof and driveway and for the abatement of asbestos floor tile and a re-tiling of the meeting room floor, together with a \$50,000 capital fund raising drive. .

DECISION

Deacon Don Burt presented recommendations from the Outreach Committee for the dispersal of funds in 2010. After further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED that \$7,025 of funds earned by the Yearn's and parish endowment are to be dispersed by the endowment fund as follows:

Joycare	2000
St. Benedict HHM	1300
Attention Homes	1000
Habitat for Humanity	1000
Echo House (CWU)	25
Episcopal Relief and Development	850
Kenyan Children's Fund	850

Mother Mary Kate updated status on the properties at 2419 Colorado, 2440 University Heights, and 2700 University Heights. After further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED that Matt Clark shall form a committee to continue the process of seeking the demolition of the building at 2419 Colorado Avenue.

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FURTHER RESOLVED that Mother Mary Kate Rejouis shall form a committee to develop a vision for the build-out of the campus.

The minutes for May 18, 2010 were approved in the form presented.

After prayers, Mother Mary Kate adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

William Sweeney
Parish Clerk

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Young Adults Job Proposal

Young Adults are particularly marginalized and isolated in our society. This is a result of our growing transience. Frequently, employment moves young adults into communities far from where they grew up, and where they grew up is often far from where their parents grew up. Young adults lack roots and the relationships that accompany them. Often the “new” people in town, young adults seek to form relationships with their peers but struggle to meet those peers.

It is a complicated situation. As a group, young adults are particularly in need of the fellowship of the church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, 70% of young adults who do not go to church have actively turned away from the church, and the top three words that the de-churched associate with the church are “judgmental,” “hypocritical,” and “insincere.”¹ Nevertheless, young adults are seeking community, which the church can provide especially when it seeks to serve others and make the world a better place.

There is tremendous opportunity to reach out to young adults through building community, offering meaningful relationships, doing service and mission work, and through teaching about Jesus. Discernment of baptismal call can be particularly meaningful to this demographic, who are often in their first career and may be questioning their vocational choices. Young adult ministry can be done by engaging the young adults who are currently present in our congregations, by making our congregations more friendly to young adults, and by direct evangelism to young adults in our community.

There are at least two distinct groups, broadly speaking, of young adults within Boulder. Currently, college students (18-22) are served by Canterbury Colorado at St. Aidan's. Young adult professionals (23-35) are served currently by the Young Adults Group at St. John's. Both congregations have congregants in each group, creating an opportunity for synergy between the two congregations. Additionally, shared ministry creates the opportunity to serve more people and increase programs.

Goals:

1. Create a Boulder-area Episcopal young adult group that is respectful of theological diversity and accepting of people in diverse walks of life, as young adults live in a wide variety of circumstances, e.g., home-ownership/renting with roommates, kids/no kids, married/single, rich/poor, etc.
2. Enhance current fellowship opportunities for young adults by expanding the St. John's Young Adults to be Boulder Area Episcopal Young Adults, with meetings equally distributed between homes, restaurants, St. John's, and St. Aidan's, with appropriate geographical diversity as well.
3. Create opportunities for one-on-one conversations with unchurched and de-churched young adults and college students.

¹ Grossman, Cathy Lynn, “Young adults aren't sticking with the church,” USA Today Online. http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2007-08-06-church-dropouts_N.htm. Accessed May 15, 2010.

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4. Develop additional meetings of the new, combined young adults groups for faith formation, e.g., Bible study, book study group, etc.
5. As an extension of faith formation, explore creating a young adults worship service.
6. Reach out to graduate students and explore starting a graduate student program via Canterbury.
7. Develop leadership within the young adults program.
8. Develop mission/service opportunities for young adults in the broader community.
9. Create consistently clear communications, using email as well as various social media.

Time Commitments:

- Sunday morning: worship in both congregations at the primary service, with approximately 50% attendance in each congregation, to increase support of young adult ministry in both congregations and to be available to welcome young adult visitors. Attend the early services of each congregation occasionally.
- Sunday evenings: attend the Canterbury service at St. Aidan's.
- Attend and support/facilitate the various groups. 1-2 meetings per week (probably evenings, but not necessarily).
- Meet with group members as appropriate for developing relationships, offering support, and developing leadership.
- Some office time, but not much, as most of the job should be spent outside of the office

Supervision:

This position is supervised by both the Rector of St. Aidan's and the Associate Rector of St. John's.

Compensation:

This position is between 25% and 38% of full time (12-15 hours).

The compensation package is \$9,000-\$14,000, annually, plus dental insurance the opportunity to participate in other group insurance.

Budget:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Rationale</i>
Evangelism, Pastoral Care, Relationship Building, etc.	624	4 coffees (\$3) per week. Most direct evangelism will happen through relationships developed at coffee shops.
Faith Formation	180	1 book (\$15) per month for book group or bible study
Supplemental Food	200	snacks/etc for meetings and such

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**Proposal for Establishment of a Homeless Overflow Shelter Ministry
at St. Aidan's**

June 15, 2010

Ann Doyle, Bill Sweeney, and Deacon Don Burt would like to offer the following proposal. We would like to begin with a few selected excerpts from St. Aidan's 2007 Vision Statement: St. Aidan's will become a ... presence marked by activity seemingly all day and all night: lights always on and doors always open. ... a relevant Christian presence to those who pass our doors every day ... we would be likely to see large numbers of ... the poor whom we are serving on our campus ... [with] programs to assist the ... poor in the community, [and with the] campus used more intensively, including support for ministries of service and outreach.

While the vision can certainly be read through other filters, this particular vision of the duty of a Christian community to serve the poor is well founded in Scripture; Jesus addressed it many times in both parables and instructions. This emphasis on service is not just for the benefit of God's poorest children, but also for the benefit of those who serve. He told his disciples "Now that you know these things [that you are to serve one another], blessed are you if you do them (John 13:17) Truly selfless service is one of the purest expressions of love. Its practice enriches our capacity to both give and receive love, and our ability to love is the essence of our relationship with each other and with Christ.

We suggest that St. Aidan's actively adopt this vision and begin moving towards it by offering our campus as an "overflow" shelter for the homeless, beginning next October. Our goal for the Vestry, and then the parish at large, is to consider what this form of the vision of community service entails, and assess our commitment to it. This includes how we understand the risks and ways to mitigate them, and how we see the rewards and ways to share them. Finally, we would encourage vestry participation in our efforts to engage the parish with these same issues.

A BOHO shelter facility normally operates on a fixed night of the week, and we suggest we operate the shelter on either Monday or Thursday nights (subject to BOHO's other arrangements). Between mid-October and mid-April our facility would be opened on the designated weeknight if the weather required it, which would be most nights during mid-winter. A summary of the normal activities at our shelter would be very close to the schedule in the attachment following this proposal.

There would be a small team of St. Aidan's liaison people who would provide the oversight of the BOHO operation and address any issues on behalf of the parish. It is not considered necessary for any parish members to participate in the nightly BOHO operations as described. This is the standard BOHO operating practice, and they ask us to conform to it as much as possible for their benefit.

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However, our purpose as the Church would be to go beyond the BOHO goal, which is saving lives and offering dignity. As the Church, we are also committed to offer Christ's love, both in worship and in relationship. We can see a number of ways to engage in this Christian hospitality without creating an imposition on the BOHO staff. For example we could offer a morning service at 7:00 A.M., which would be open to the overnight guests after they have checked out. Or, we might offer a "to go" cup of coffee or snack outside following checkout. No doubt other options will present themselves in the course of time. These will also provide opportunities to engage a larger section of the congregation than is possible with just the liaison team. While we recognize that there will be challenges, rejections, and failures, we also know that sincere and selfless love in Christ's name is never a mistake.

Some of those challenges, rejections, and failures will have an impact beyond the oversight group, to our St. Aidan's family. It is likely that fear and anxiety about them might have even more impact than actual events. It is one of our goals to prepare the hearts of our representatives to this ministry, and also of the congregation in general, to have grace and patience to meet the unexpected issues without ill will or any form of division.

Some of the fears and anxiety will be out of concern about the safety of our parishioners and others who use our parish facilities. Safety, in this sense, will range from an expectation of physical attack or verbal abuse to awkwardness in the presence of people we don't know and don't understand. In fact, the actual risk of physical violence is historically small. This is not a normally violent population, but it is one subject to intoxication or mental illness that can have that expression. The BOHO staff is experienced in recognizing and de-escalating such situations, and will not hesitate to use 911 if that seems necessary.

Beyond these concerns however, it is true that the awkwardness and lack of connection can create real discomfort. It is also true that the primary response to that is in our hands, as the body of Christ. The only way to realize our vision as a place where God's love is manifest, is for that love to be manifest in us.

Other legitimate concerns will be about the upkeep of our facility; casual or even deliberate damage, cleanliness, odors, and similar issues. The experience of other overflow shelters has been that these are real issues, but minor ones when compared to the value they receive in offering the service. We suggest it would be appropriate to establish some budget to address this set of concerns.

Finally, there will be concerns about the presence of the homeless at times when we are not operating the shelter. Again, the experience of others is that this has not been a problem. Generally the daytime presence has actually decreased instead of increasing. This may not be the case at St. Aidan's, as we are somewhat more accessible to the homeless daytime facilities than are the other centers. However, if it proves to be an issue, we can consider ways to address it; for example with policies that are firm, but fair.

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Conceivably we might have volunteers present during normal staff hours to assist with the labyrinth as well as attending to “homeless assistance”. In any event, it would seem quite incongruous for us to be concerned by St. Aidan's acquiring a reputation as a place of care and compassion. To insure there has been an opportunity for concerns to be voiced and that an adequate response to them has been prepared, it is our intent to bring this program before the existing groups within St. Aidans between now and August. Our goal is to be prepared to make a commitment to BOHO as of August 27th, about six or seven weeks before they begin next year's operations. The groups we would like to address include the Men's Breakfast group, the Natters, the Choir, Canterbury Core, Book Club, Wednesday Morning Toast, and the morning and evening prayer groups. While it is expected this will reach most of the members that are active in the parish, some more global congregational event will also be needed.

We would like to do that broader event near the end of the interval when we have a better understanding of the concerns and level of support. As we proposed at the beginning, we would like to consider the Vestry as one of these groups, and we welcome your feedback. We also would request your support within other groups of which you are a member when we have occasion to present to that group.

Typical BOHO Operating Schedule

- 4:00 P.M. Latest time for a decision about evening's overflow operation
- 6:00 P.M., BOHO staff arrives and begins to set up by clearing space in the hall and preparing for intake. St. Aidan's will supply sleeping space for 40 to 60 persons, restrooms, and storage for blankets. The kitchen will not be available and no food will be served.
- About 6:45 P.M., guests begin to arrive, possibly earlier. They wait outside until the intake begins.
- 7:00 P.M., the staff begins intake, which includes welcoming and registering all the guests, assessing them for risk of violence, and separating them from weapons (typically pocket knives). Each guest gets a blanket for the night.
 - Somewhere around 8:00 there is a “smoke break” outside.
- By 9:00 or 9:30 P.M. lights are out and guests are expected to sleep. Typically two BOHO staff and at least one BOHO volunteer spend the night with the guests.
- Between 5:30 and 6:00 AM the quests are wakened
- 7:00 A.M., all guests have been checked out.
- The BOHO staff will clean up and restore the hall to its normal condition. They will typically be done by 8:00. A St. Aidan's liaison member will review the condition of the church after each night's shelter operations