

Minutes of Vestry Meeting, January 19, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:49 p.m. by the Senior Warden. It was preceded by a dinner and formal expressions of appreciation to the outgoing vestry members. Opening devotions were led by Anne Cressin.

Present: Charles Lancaster, Darren Ball, Vickie Gottlob, Anne Ribble, Anne Cressin, Stephanie Bolton, Paul Legrand, Lloyd Snook.

Absent: Lynne Weikart, Daryl Russell, Michele Allen

Staff: Neal Goldsborough, John Reid

ACTION

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as amended.

DISCUSSION

Interim Rector Neal Goldsborough reported that after six weeks with the parish, he has observed that St. Paul's has an unlimited potential for growth, ministry, and outreach, along with an absence of serious conflict. He has had a delightful time meeting the Stephen Ministers and Generation Wise. He recommended "openness and trust" in each other and the Holy Spirit.

Associate Rector Elaine Thomas submitted her report in writing, expressing her confidence in our new interim rector. She summarized the events of the past month, including the Liturgy of the Longest Night and the three festival eucharists on Christmas Eve, which showed a slight increase in attendance. Elaine and her husband Tim recently returned from a pilgrimage to Canterbury, England. St. Paul's again hosted the sorority rush warming station, welcoming hundreds of young women into our parish hall for a place to rest and enjoy refreshments during this five-day process. The event was staffed by Elaine and eleven parishioners. The clergy is planning a confirmation class in anticipation of the Easter Vigil visit of Bishop Susan Goff. Elaine has put her name forward for election to the Standing Committee of the diocese at the upcoming Council. On behalf of Region XV, she also drafted a resolution entitled "No Guns in God's House" which will be voted on at Council. Elaine is looking forward to providing clergy input to the Search Committee. In response, Charles Lancaster commended Elaine for her superb leadership during the period when she was the senior clergy at St. Paul's.

Parish Administrator John Reid expressed his appreciation of the contributions of outgoing vestry member Daryl Russell for his work advocating for the Youth Group, providing guidance on the employee benefit package, and serving as chair of the Annual Giving campaign. John also commended the present Vestry for their activity and degree of involvement in the work of the parish. He said that his work has already benefited from the long and varied experience of our new interim rector (including grease traps!). John has been in contact with Gropen about progress on our signs. The new electrical box will probably be installed on Friday, February 5, and there will be no electricity in the building on that day. The Chancellor Street Preschool will be informed.

The Vestry discussed logistics for the Annual Meeting. With snow in the forecast, a decision on a weather-based postponement will be made Saturday morning. Voting for the new vestry class is open from Friday morning until the beginning of the Annual Meeting.

Senior Warden Charles Lancaster announced that nominations for the new vestry class are complete and expressed special thanks to Mildred Robinson for contacting Robert Sayler from the 8:00 congregation. The Search Committee will conduct a focus group for the Vestry at the retreat on January 30,

Junior Warden Darren Ball announced that Walter Redd, a Skinner Scholar, has been featured in a front page article in the Daily Progress on the Phronesis Project at the medical school. Dr. Margaret Plews-Ogan, founder of the project, is a new member of St. Paul's.

In the absence of Treasurer Lynne Weikart, John Reid gave the Financial Report. The current 2016 budget projects a \$20,000 shortfall. John anticipates that the actual shortfall will be less. The auditor will decide which expenses should be considered capital expenses. John has begun negotiations with the University concerning the lease on Booker House, which expires in four years and 11 months. The church has employed a lawyer to participate at the appropriate time. Financial analysis is needed at this point. Pledges totaling \$550,000 have been received. St. Paul's receives regular monthly contributions from 22-23 people who do not pledge.

The Vestry discussed logistics for the retreat at Roslyn to take place January 29-31. Carpools will be arranged.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. with prayer led by Anne Cressin.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Gottlob
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