

Vestry Meeting – April 18, 2017

The meeting was convened at 5:00 PM in Earle Conference Room, Parish House, Christ Church.

Rector Harrison McLeod opened the meeting with prayer.

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Bern Mebane (Senior Warden), Dena Benedict (Junior Warden), Jim Baumgardner, Lauren Briles, Cotton Clarke, Rose Cuddy (Recorder) Chris Cunningham, Chris Klasing (Assistant Treasurer), Kevin Mertens, Bryant Nixon, Ben Norwood, Louise Oxner, Chuck Reichert, Lizzy Sterling, Betty Teague, Brent Williams.

Guests: Hannah Flack, Hedrick Lewis, Mary Ellen Vernon

Absent: Bill Kehl, Dan Seaman.

Ministry Area Visit: Faith Development Team

Hannah Flack, Director of Youth Ministry, said she is on her fourth month working at Christ Church. She is from Florida and her experience in working at Episcopal camps provided her background in youth ministry.

Hedrick Lewis, Director of Children's Ministry, introduced herself as a cradle Episcopalian who has grown up at Christ Church. Her background is in early childhood education. She commented on the 21 baptisms held Saturday and how Children's Ministry will celebrate Easter with a painting workshop this Sunday.

Mary Ellen Vernon, Program Coordinator, said she is the administrative support person for the Faith Development team. She grew up in Virginia and has her undergrad and master's degrees in Christian Education. She moved to Greenville from Pennsylvania and loves living here.

The team is excited about Jay Biedenharn arriving soon as priest for Faith Development.

Worship Task Force Report

Donald Duncan gave a presentation regarding the committee's proposal for the fall worship schedule. The presentation is attached. The task force, comprised of clergy, liturgical staff and lay liturgical leaders, was charged with planning for worship once we return to the church. The proposed schedule is below:

8:15 AM	Rite 1 – moved to Church
9:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship in Parlor
9:30 AM	Sunday School
10:30 AM	Classic Rite 2 Service – Church
10:30 AM	Eclectic Service – Chapel
5:00 PM	No change -Chapel

Questions and Discussion:

Bryant – are we being prepped for a long service at 10:30 AM in the Church? Harrison answered that the service would likely be around an hour and ten minutes.

Betty – does this assume that those attending the former 11:15 AM contemporary or Rite 1 services would be together? Donald thinks that the Rite 1 attendees would likely attend the 10:30 AM Church service. Harrison commented that investigation revealed that the majority of those attending the 11:15 AM Rite 1 liked the time rather than Rite 1.

Louise asked about moving the lower attended 8:00 AM Rite 1 to the Church at 8:15 AM. Harrison responded that the transepts and back pews would be cordoned off to create a more intimate setting.

Cotton – would this proposed schedule provide stress on our clergy? If we hire additional clergy, likely not. When we had five services rather than four, it was difficult. When fully staffed, the new schedule would not be a problem. Cotton also asked about the appearance of the crowd for the 8:15 AM service in the larger worship space.

Brent - Clergy will be on a rotation to preach at all services? Yes – the clergy will preach at either early and mid-morning services or at a mid-morning service and the 5:00 PM.

Jim – asked about the purpose of the 10:30 AM eclectic service.

Bryant –asked for careful attention to be paid to the name of the services. Should we simply call them “Chapel” or “Church” services?

Bern – is the “eclectic” service defined as Rite 2? Harrison said 98% of the time, both of the 10:30 AM services would be likely Rite 2 by the Book of Common Prayer. More relaxed liturgies or prayers, Eucharistic Prayer C, etc., would be used in the Chapel.

Chris Klasing – would like Vergers to serve in the Chapel as well to keep them trained better. He asked about budgeting for the music at the Chapel 10:30 AM service. Harrison said that some paid musicians would be part of the service, but we also have keyboardists already on staff.

Lizzy said the original contemporary service in the Chapel grew until seating was a problem. She thought that this service would grow similarly.

Chuck asked about the challenges of parking with two 10:30 AM services. Bryant asked if we are losing people due to parking. Church growth professionals say people don’t want to walk into a room that’s too empty or too full. They want convenient, modern bathrooms and convenient parking. As we develop our campus plan, we need to consider this. Having crossing guards on Church Street is helpful.

Jim – asked about how people have enjoyed fellowship at the ASC, but have we considered any option for fellowship after the move back to the Church?

Ben – described how the contemporary service changed when it moved from the Chapel to the ASC. Harrison noted his liturgical professor’s comment that you can’t fight the building. The environment does affect the perception of a worship service.

Harrison commented that we are in the process of building support and hearing feedback from the congregation. He will return to the Vestry with additional feedback. At some point, the Vestry will be asked to endorse the final schedule and serve as ambassadors for it.

Approval of Nominations and Elections Committee Slate

Sam Erwin and Bill Hardaway, former wardens, will serve as leaders of this committee. The finalized slate will be sent via email before the May meeting. An email vote requires 100% response rate, so please be attentive to this and any other emailed information for Vestry and respond promptly.

March Minutes

The March 21, 2017, Vestry Meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting by email. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Louise Oxner and seconded by Chuck Reichert. All Vestry members voted in favor, none were opposed. The motion carried.

Rector's Report

Harrison said that The Reverend Jay Biedenharn will begin work here May 15 as the priest for Faith Development. He and his family come to us from St. John's in Memphis. He and his wife, Louise, have two young daughters. He was first ordained as a Methodist minister and later moved to the Episcopal Church.

Harrison commented on the wonderful Holy Week and Easter and the untold hours spent by volunteers as well as church staff. The twenty-one baptisms that took place Saturday are the most that Harrison has baptized in one day! He asked for Vestry experiences during Holy Week. Kevin commented that the Vigil was outstanding. Bern said hats off to Harrison!

Harrison expressed support for the Ministry Area visits to Vestry meetings. He encouraged the Vestry to engage the staff and ask questions.

The recent tours of the church under construction were a big success. The stained glass windows will be removed by end of the week. He floated the idea of adding a columbarium (up to 72 slots) to the Galilee Porch. Questions were is it necessary or more cost and construction efficient to do this now? It would be a change order that would incur a charge. Cotton asked if the cost for the columbarium would go to the Endowment. Harrison answered that it would and the Endowment would own it and the proceeds. The design would be prefabricated woodwork and would not take more than a week to install.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Klasing said that he and Dan Seaman are working on recommendations regarding the endowment and restricted fund policy changes. This report, due to Holy Week and Easter duties, will be presented next month.

Three new Endowment board members proposed are John Wood, Mauldin Avinger and Maura Copsy. The Vestry's approval is required to present this slate at the Endowment meeting Monday. Kevin Mertens so moved, Brent Williams seconded the motion. No discussion. All voted in favor, except Cotton Clarke who abstained due to his employment by Morgan Stanley. None were opposed, the motion carried.

Senior Warden's Report

Bern Mebane talked about watching the Femenella workers remove the stained glass windows. He reiterated that we made the right decision with this contractor and discussed the precision and professionalism of the crew charged with transporting and restoring the windows.

He also encouraged the Vestry to read the Ministry Area reports and remarked on the number of times the word "volunteer" was used in them. If there are opportunities where you can participate, please take note and help get resources to the people who are doing the work.

Junior Warden's Report

Dena Benedict echoed the value of the ministry area reports. She reminded the Vestry of the Construction crew lunch Friday, April 21. If you can attend, please contact Debbie Rice. She called the Vestry's attention to the sign up sheet going around the room for lunch with the Bishop April 30.

Departmental Reports

Pre-submitted Ministry Area reports were sent via email to the Vestry in advance and are attached to these minutes.

Bryant Nixon reported on the HIStory Lives budget and addressed the items that were previously unknown costs. The sound system cost is estimated at \$109,000 and the video system is currently on hold. Chancel lighting has been identified and is slightly higher than expected. The \$500,000 construction contingency still remains a conservative estimate. The amount available for debt reduction appears to be relatively unchanged. Chris Klasing said our spending on the project is slower than estimated, so we may not need to tap into our construction loan until July. Kevin asked about the condition of the roof. Shingles are going on and no issues were found. Cotton asked about what happens to the contingency fund if it is not used – will it go to pay down debt? Harrison said we need to be faithful to the commitments we've made.

Jim asked the Vestry to attend the Next Project updates next Monday and let Debbie Rice of Faith in Action know if you plan to attend. Harrison commented that on Tuesday, April 25, at 11:00 AM, there will be a groundbreaking on the Joshua's Way property to provide affordable housing with all community partners, including the city, which has given \$200,000 toward the project.

Bryant had a question regarding the church's role in proposed renovations for the preschool's interior playground. When we identify funds to partner in this project (total of which is \$34,000), the church expects to split the cost of this project with the CCEP.

New Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Rose Cuddy, Recorder