

December 18, 2018 - Christ Church Vestry Meeting

At the Home of Jennifer & Harrison McLeod

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Bern Mebane (Senior Warden), Dena Benedict (Junior Warden), Chris Klasing (Treasurer), Dan Seaman (Assistant Treasurer), Bill Kehl (Chancellor), Anne Arrington, Lauren Briles, Cotton Clarke, Mac Gentile, George E. McCall, Kevin Mertens, Louise Oxner, Chuck Reichert, Betty Teague, Brent Williams, Helen Wynkoop, Rose Cuddy (recorder).

Absent: Jim Baumgardner.

Guests: New Wardens & Vestry Members Ben Horne, Ashley Reynolds, Emily Davis, Jordan Earle, Norma Givens and Penn Williams. Elizabeth Fletcher, Secretary of the Vestry.

Harrison opened the meeting with prayer at 5:47 PM.

Rector's Report

Harrison said that he always enjoys hosting the December meeting and Christmas party.

He updated the Vestry on pastoral concerns:

- Jennie Meadowcroft suffered a stroke last week and has been moved to Hospice. Harrison, Jay and Kellie have performed last rites. Harrison encouraged the Vestry to reach out to Jeffrey via email, phone or text and remember the Meadowcrofts in their prayers.
- Bishop Hultstrand fell twice last week and suffered injuries. His wife, Ann, is very concerned about his condition. He has been moved to rehab. Ann checks email regularly, so Harrison encouraged the Vestry to reach out to her.
- Bishop Waldo is aware of both situations since they involve a bishop and a priest.

Harrison said we have good news from our Annual Giving campaign and that Cotton Clarke will update the Vestry later in the meeting.

He said that the Parish Christmas Dinner was a great success – please thank Karen and the food staff and volunteers. Harrison praised Jim Cothran and his facilities crew, and he thanked the Vestry volunteers, the music department, and all who helped.

In the Treasurer's report, there is a HIStory Lives campaign report. The final pledged and non-pledged amount is \$8.8 million and \$7.9 is the total expected to be spent on the church restoration. We will be able to allocate about \$900,000 to pay down debt. We are in the early stages to begin to discuss the next capital campaign.

He reminded the Vestry to please take their gifts from Harrison & Jennifer before leaving tonight.

New Wardens & Vestry

Bern Mebane made a motion to give seat and voice to the new Wardens and Vestry members in attendance for tonight's meeting. Dena Benedict seconded. The Vestry voted unanimously to approve. The motion carried. The new Wardens & Vestry will take full office January 1, 2019.

Senior Warden

Bern Mebane congratulated those who've been elected and thanked those who're rotating off the Vestry. He thanked Junior Warden Dena Benedict and Assistant to the Rector Rose Cuddy. Bern praised the diversity and talents of the Vestry members coming on to serve. He said serving as Senior Warden has been fun!

Junior Warden and Third Century

Junior Warden: Dena Benedict said that Harrison has completed his HR conversations with each staff member. She thanked Lauren Briles for being the creative force behind the Vestry centerpiece at the Parish Christmas Dinner. She thanked Helen Wynkoop for her help with the Christmas dinner and Betty Teague for offering her supply of Christmas items for the event. She thanked the Vestry members rotating off and those who're coming on to serve.

Third Century: Dena encouraged Vestry members to talk about the church's recently described mission and values with their ministry areas and with any church groups with which they are involved. She noted that new Vestry members Norma Givens and Penn Williams served on the Third Century Commission (3CC).

Treasurer's Report

Chris Klasing drew the Vestry's attention to the emailed monthly Treasurer's report and Dan Seaman addressed the 2019 Budget summary, which was distributed to the group tonight.

Treasurer's Report

Chris said that we are about \$100,000 behind for the year at the beginning of December. He said that it will take a little more than we usually get in December to make up this gap. He commented that Christ Church has a history of making the pledge numbers, so he is hopeful, especially with the December pledge reminder having been mailed this week.

He reported on the HIStory Lives sheet that Harrison referenced earlier and that we likely will be able to allocate \$900,000 or a little more toward paying down debt.

Hatch Fund Motion

Chuck Reichert spoke to the glycol leak in the Parish House HVAC system and repairs made by Johnson Controls that cost \$13,400. The Endowment board approved Monday, December 17, during their regular meeting to use the Hatch Fund to pay this invoice pending Vestry approval. This expense meets the Hatch Fund criteria of a campus building & maintenance expense not likely to recur within five years and costing more than \$10,000. Chuck Reichert made the motion to pay the Johnson Controls invoice from the Hatch Fund, and Cotton Clarke seconded the motion. Brief discussion followed. Vestry members voted unanimously to approve the motion. The motion carried.

2019 Budget

Dan noted significant differences in the budget process this year:

- The guidance of the Christ Church mission, vision and values in evaluating the budget.
- The Executive Leadership Team (department heads) did the budget balancing.

Dan said that, in the past, the staff departments gave presentations to the Budget Committee, and the committee then did the balancing and gave the final figures to the ELT. This year, the ELT members collaborated and looked at the budget holistically.

He remarked that, in 2018, the church had access to a couple of income sources that do not repeat this year. This year, requests vs. projections left a gap of about \$359,000, which the team balanced by holding close to the 2018 levels, deferring a few staff positions, using reserve funds and cutting Faith in Action. Dan called the group's attention to the budget summary. The budgeted pledge revenue of \$2.7 million appears to be in reach and we could go beyond that so some funds could be restored. Salaries and benefits are up 1.5% from last year.

He and Harrison addressed the calculation for Faith in Action funds, which were reduced from ten to eight percent of the budget. The traditional calculation for FIA funds has been 10% of pledges added to Faith in Action proceeds from the Endowment, but how that has been calculated has varied in the past. With the difficulty of overcoming the gap, the ELT recommended that we change the formula for this year to 8%.

The Vestry were invited to ask questions and to call Harrison, Dan or Chris with additional questions as they review the figures presented to them tonight. The Vestry will be asked to discuss and adopt the budget at the January meeting.

Cotton asked about the FIA percentage and the discussion that preceded the decision. Harrison reviewed the history of the original decision to allocate 10% to outreach and the different ways this has been calculated in the past. During this year's budget discussion, Harrison had conversation with the Faith in Action Committee as well. He brought up examples of how we provide outreach that is counted as part of other ministries such as Canterbury Counseling Center facilities expenses or a youth mission trip. The committee reviewed these expenses with Harrison and came to a figure upon which they agreed. Even with these steps, they entertained the difficult decision to reduce the percentage for this year. He reiterated how important it is for us to reach out to our community and beyond. He said the 10% resolution holds us to a standard and that this year we engaged in healthy conversation about supporting outreach without harming other ministries. Anne Arrington commented that she hopes we can continue healthy debate and that this issue deserves more discussion than we can engage in tonight. Lauren commented that we are in a good economy and she struggles with taking funds from reserves and with cutting proposed expenses under these conditions. Harrison encouraged the Vestry to keep our mission, vision and values in mind as we continue our discussion.

Vestry Retreat

The Vestry Retreat is January 11-12 at Coldwell Banker Caine, 111 Williams St., Greenville. Harrison asked the Vestry to look for emailed questions about our values for the Vestry to answer before the retreat. He also asked for Vestry members' input on which ministry areas you'd like to serve.

Prior Meeting Minutes

The November 20, 2018, Vestry Meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting by email. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Betty Teague and seconded by Bern Mebane. All Vestry members voted in favor of accepting the minutes. The motion carried.

New Business

None.

Committee/Team Reports

Ministry Area Reports from department heads were distributed prior to the meeting via email. Updates and additional reports from Vestry liaisons may be found below.

CCEP

Helen Wynkoop reported that the CCEP worked on their budget last night. An item was left off the financials, so they will approve their final 2019 budget at the January meeting.

Restoration

Harrison reported on a change order to the Femenella contract for the stained glass windows in the church. They will add light boxes to the windows behind the pulpit and to the five gorgeous lancet windows that are more visible since tree removal. The total of this change order will be approximately \$60,000. Harrison brought this as information to the Vestry that this is the last expense we anticipate with the Femenella contract.

Canterbury Counseling Center Board Candidate

As Pastoral Care Vestry Representative, Kevin Mertens presented Steve Sellery as candidate for the board of directors of the Canterbury Counseling Center, a ministry of Christ Church, which provides pastoral counseling for the parish and community. CCC is supported by other area churches, but as the sponsoring church, Christ Church holds nine of the 14 seats on the Board of Directors. Christ Church provides the facility, maintenance and through Pastoral Care, subsidy for parishioners to obtain services. Steve is proposed to take a Christ Church seat on the board. His resume was distributed via email to the Vestry prior to tonight's meeting. Kevin Mertens brought the motion to the Vestry to approve Steve Sellery for a Christ Church seat on the Canterbury Counseling Center Board, and Cotton Clarke seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All Vestry members voted to approve. None were opposed. The motion carried.

Cotton shared the good news from the Annual Giving campaign and thanked Resource Development Director Lauren Sigmon for her good work. Cotton thanked Harrison for his recent sermon, which was motivating! To date, Cotton said that we have 779 pledges (goal is 825) for a total to date of \$2,571,000. There have been 104 new pledges (goal was 100) and 380 increased pledges (goal was 375). There is still more than \$300,000 outstanding from those giving last year but not yet this year (LYBUNT), so we have the potential for a very good annual giving year!

Closing Remarks

Junior Warden Dena Benedict thanked Bern for leading as Senior Warden the last two years. She thanked Rose for supporting the Vestry and Harrison for his leadership. She gave Harrison and Rose gifts from the Vestry in appreciation.

In turn, Harrison thanked Bern and Dena for their commitment of time over the last two years. He praised the Vestry and pointed out some information of note: There are four Vestry members from the class of 1978, the first African-American, a spouse succeeding another, siblings succeeding one another, and three former employees, and at least two cousins serving.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM and the Vestry joined their guests for the Christmas social.

Respectfully submitted, Rose Cuddy