

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
Thursday, July 23, 2009 – 7 PM

Attendees: Rob Wood, Betsy Jones, Blair Hendrickson, Joey Sargent, Terry Ledford, Harmony Kiser, Jim Skinner, David Freeman, Jim Smith, Laurin Lausier; by phone: Richard Schuetze and Blair Hendrickson; Absent: Bob French and Andrea Manos

1. Opening Prayer/Devotion: *Betsy Jones*
2. Approval of agenda—approved.
3. Approval of June 2009 minutes—approved.
4. Gregory Smith Resignation (and replacement plan as outlined in our bylaws)
 - Fr. Rob asked if all had seen Gregory Smith's resignation letter. All had and it was stated that the Vestry was appreciative of the way Gregory handled his resignation and why he chose to resign at this time.
 - The BY-LAWS of St. Aidan's Episcopal Parish state (section 4.7) that vacancies in the Vestry shall be filled for the unexpired term by a majority of the remaining members of the Vestry at any regular or special meeting, of which election previous notice shall have been given to each remaining member of the Vestry.
 - Fr. Rob mentioned that we can fill based on leadership or pastoral care (the area Gregory was over and in which we would fill). Richard Schuetze mentioned that we might go back to the 4 people that were part of the previous pool of candidates from the 2009 election. Other suggestions were that we choose someone possibly that was a previous Vestry person. The pool of candidates from the 2009 election are as follows:
 - Jim Fredrickson, Linda Bowman, Bill Sprung, Earl Bozeman
 - A suggestion was made to think through this pool of candidates and at our next Vestry meeting, select/vote on a candidate and an alternate and approach them.
 - A decision was made to make one announcement to the Parish which would include Gregory's resignation and the newly chosen Vestry person.
5. Review June Finances (see icons under Attachment C)
 - Joey Sargent and Donna are working together to determine process for approvals of the Vestry members' areas of oversight.
 - Additional expense for Keith's reception makes us over budget at this time. The breakfast ministry will be helping with this Unexpected cost.
 - It was noted that VBS cost us \$2,100 and we took in \$600.
 - Looking at all contributions and expenses, we are still in the black. The operating reserve is at about \$14,000 which is helpful.
6. 2010 Diocesan pledge: we are asked to contribute \$45,661
 - This is an 8% jump and concern was raised that we will not have an 8% increase in pledges considering the current economic situation.
 - Part of the reason for this increase is that over the last few years, we have raised our contributions pretty significantly (this suggested amount is an average of our contributions over the last 3 years).
 - Options are: 1) give what they are asking us to give or 2) appeal and propose what we believe we can give (note: we did this two years ago). If we appeal and are not granted the appeal and we choose not to give, we lose the right to vote at Diocesan Council and lose the option to hire an Assistant Rector.
 - Fr. Rob feels that what we are asked is fair. Last year we paid around \$42,000. The amount requested this year is a \$3,500 increase over what we paid last year.

- Concern was brought up that 2011 may be hard for us since the averages are taken into account. Fr. Rob mentioned that next year this time, we can make a decision based on where we stand at that time, on whether we make the pledge for 2011.
 - All were in favor of moving forward with the Diocesan pledge of \$45,661.
7. General Convention—a discussion of resolutions there and discussions at St. Aidan’s
- Question asked: Based upon the fact that there is a right opinion, is there a stance that we, at St. Aidan’s, need to follow? Fr. Rob passed out the Presiding Bishop’s letter to the church on General Convention and highlighted some areas:
 - Line 11: the budget was cut and many Church Center staff lost their positions.
 - Line 20: the Millennium Development Goals budgetary commitment will go to the NetsforLife program partnership of the Episcopal Relief & Development.
 - Line 36: discusses the two resolutions (D025 and C056) which captured the secular media attention. D025 “Anglican Communion: Commitment and Witness to Anglican Communion”—we reaffirmed our commitment to and desire to pursue mission with the Anglican Communion. It also reiterates our commitment to Listening Process urged by Lambeth Conferences of 1978, 1988 and 1998.
 - Line 43: notes that our own participation in the listening process led General Convention in 2000 to “recognize that the baptized membership of The Episcopal Church includes same-sex couples living in lifelong committed relationships ‘characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God’”
 - Line 52 & 53: Acknowledges that the members of the Episcopal Church, and of the Anglican Communion, are not of one mind, and that faithful Christians disagree about some of these matters.
 - A question was asked if Fr. Rob had heard from any one in our congregation about this resolution?” He mentioned that for the most part...no, not at this time. A parishioner had emailed asking if we might want to have a discussion group at church for interested people to discuss this more. Fr. Rob mentioned that it is important to have healthy discussions about this. He was impressed with the General Convention in that there was not name calling, bickering, etc., but an overall healthy discussion.
 - Line 55-62: discusses resolution C056, titled “Liturgies for Blessings.” It acknowledges changing circumstances in the US and elsewhere, in that civil jurisdictions in some places permit marriage, civil unions and/or domestic partnerships involving same-sex couples...
 - Fr. Rob mentioned that there was no authorization; there was no change in the Book of Common Prayer. Nothing has changed in the State of Georgia. The Bishop does not permit same sex unions.
 - Line 65: notes that bishop may provide generous pastoral responses to the needs of members of this Church
 - Line 69: the full text of both resolutions is at <http://gc2009.org/ViewLegislation>
 - Richard Schuetze stated that it is important for us on the Vestry to be good communicators of what this means for the Diocese and St. Aidan’s.
8. Staffing/Assistant Rector update
- We did interview one candidate—this was a preliminary interview. There will be more interviews if we decide to move forward. One candidate withdrew from the pool. The other possible candidate is from out of state.
9. Vestry reporting
- Parish Life (see Attachment B)
 - September 13th—should we have a Ministry Fair? There were discussions that often at the Ministry Fair, there were not many sign ups. Most mentioned that

they like the parade as part of the service. Fr. Rob mentioned that the Parish Life Committee should discuss and determine how to proceed.

- Fall Festival—date agreed upon is October 17
- Question asked, “For Parish Retreat, can we subsidize some of the costs...maybe the costs of the children to attend?” It was mentioned that we could possibly take some money from breakfast ministry or other areas to subsidize this. It was mentioned that we had extra money from our last Fall Festival that we could possibly use that this year; however, part of that may have been set aside for the youth. Fr. Rob asked Jim Skinner to do some research (look in previous minutes) to determine if any of that extra money is still available.
- Pastoral Care—not reviewed at this time due to resignation.

10. Resolution to establish Endowment Fund

- Fr. Rob suggests that we have a designated meeting to discuss this. Friday, August 14th at 6:00 pm was agreed upon as the date and time to meet.
- We also agreed to take up the Vestry Selection of candidates by priority that day, as well.

11. Long Range planning – creating a process (from June discussions). Agreement was made to have this discussion in the future.

12. Warden’s Reports

- Sr. Warden’s Report—no report tonight
- Jr. Warden’s Report—no report tonight

13. Rector’s Report (see Attachment A)

- Christian Education rooms did get painted.
- Fr. Rob will be taking vacation the first week of August.

14. New Business

- Betsy Jones discussed an email from RRISA (Refuge Resettlement....)—they are requesting computers. She would like to come up with 40 computers by August 8th.

15. Old Business

- Choir Risers—Gary Nix should have prices tomorrow (one to include material costs only and the other to include labor).
- Community Garden—has met and are still in planning stages.
- Cottage work day has been moved to August 15th.
- New Comer’s Dinner was cancelled because lack of RSVPs. It has been rescheduled for October 18th.

16. Action Steps Review

- Fr. Rob asked all to think through the 2009 Vestry (referenced under #4 above) candidates prior to our August 14 meeting.
- Betsy Jones asked Fr. Rob for a list of potential 2010 Vestry nominations.
- Fr. Rob asked Jim Skinner to look back at previous minutes to determine if extra money is still available from last year’s Fall Festival for support of the costs of children attending the Parish Retreat.

Dates to Remember

- Additional Vestry meeting: Friday, August 14, 6 PM
- Next Regular Vestry meeting: Thursday, August 20, 7 PM

Meeting concluded with a prayer led by Fr. Rob.
Respectfully submitted by Laurin Lausier, clerk.

Attachment A

Attachment B

Parish Life Ministry Mid-Year Report

Recent Events

- Maundy Thursday Dinner – April 9th
 - Served approximately 25
 - Soups and breads
 - Tentatively Planning a Seder dinner for next year – Lynda Frederickson and Judie Borden to lead.
- Easter Vigil Champagne and Sweets – April 11th
 - Served approximately 50
 - Snacks, Cheese, Sweets, Pastries, Champagne, Sparkling Cider
 - Well received - Plan to repeat next year.
- Parish Picnic – May 17th
 - Served approximately 260
 - Used both Burtenshaw Hall and picnic tables outside.
 - Cooked 170 hamburgers, 96 Hot Dogs, plus covered dishes.
 - Two ‘Moonwalks’
 - Live music
 - Games were planned for the youth, but were cut due to rain.
- Fr. Keith’s Reception – June 27th
 - Served Approximately 220
 - Barbecue, banana pudding and covered dishes.
 - Vestry/Staff, EFM, Book Club, Youth, John Sabine/Choir, Seekers Covenant Group and David and Vicki Freeman Presentations

Upcoming Events

- Miss Mary’s Ice Cream Crankin’ – August 30th
- First Sunday and Ministry Fair – September 13th
- St. Aidan’s Fall Festival – Date TBD
 - No Attic Sale this year
 - Hayrides, Face Painting, Games, Music, Moonwalks
 - Pumpkins, Baked Goods, Corn Shocks for Purchase
 - Barbecue and Food as fund raising opportunity
 - Possible Classic Car show
 - Crafters Booths
- Parish Retreat - Date 10/2-10/4
 - Originally scheduled 10/23-10/25
 - Bumped due to overbooking

Attachment C



09_06 Oper Rev and Exp.pdf



09_06 LHTC Reserve Calc.pdf



09_06 Operating Reserve Calc.pdf



09_06 Restricted Accounts.pdf