

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2006

Attendees: Ruth Warner, Gretchen Carr, Phil Robidoux, Jay Jacobson, Fr. Mike, Sue Ramsley, Peter Dittman, Chris Estey

VESTRY BUSINESS

- 1) **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Mike led the Vestry in opening prayer.
- 2) **October 2006 Meeting Minutes voted on & approved**
- 3) Ruth Warner proposed the wooden cross in shed for memorial for Tom Moorman

Vision Meeting Summary

St. Paul's is called to be an embracing, nourishing and life-giving family in Christ.

We are called to care for each other, for our community and for the world.

Vision discussion: conversation around how we implement our programs with this vision, as well as the need concrete things in line for our annual meeting. Our intention is to report back to you in the 2008 meeting how we did.

We now need to formalize them & make them available to our older members who are shut it, in a form that is both something measurable & reportable.

Next step is to have Vestry embrace this vision.

It was noted there is a remarkable synthesis between this & mission statement we currently have.

Further discussion on ontology – being & doing. Being precedes doing. Who you are before what you can do. What do you do with that healthy family notion.

The word Family is what takes this from 'gee whiz' to 'wow'.

As compared to year 2000 when we thought we were ready to move from a family to a Pastoral parish, this vision statement indicates who we are & the feel that we have hit it right.

Various vestry members support the statement through personalized stories.

FR: fondest hope – by the time we have the 2007 annual meeting, vestry would have made this “official”, and addressed each one of those bullets at the end.

Question on whether we needed further discussion on this matter, or does this limit us? Parish owes it to it's self to review this every few years. Changes in the town could predicate us refreshing the vision/mission statement in a few years, as conditions warrant. Peter Dittman noted this gives is a “north” on our compass to keep us guided. Changed wording to say “our community”.

Vestry will take this matter up at December meeting to vote on approval.
Motion to accept as vision statement – unanimously approved.

Tri Parish Meeting

Wed Nov 9th we are hosting Tri parish meeting with Millis church

Statistics on our church vs. Millis church & Parishes with income of less than amount.

\$150K/yr = troubled parish according to Diocese definition.

Christ Church Medway is ready to partner up with somebody. Fr. Mike suggested there is more room to talk more about this. Millis may not be on board with the notion that they need help.

Father Mike reaffirmed the fact that Family sized churches, unless heavily endowed, can NOT afford FULL TIME RECTORS.

St. Pauls Hopkinton & Medway, have a great deal in common. Lost rectors, etc. Although Medway has had another year & ½ that if they don't do something to collaborate, they can't survive. WE MAY NOT BE READY TO GRAB THIS OPPORTUNITY. Concern about us missing an opportunity. If cluster is formed, it is unknown if both pastors would be allowed to stay.

Question about \$15K promised to us for 2007 – would that be put towards cluster? Possible arrangement would be one full time clergy person, and one part time (Sunday am services). Also unknown is assignment of clergy person – dioceses decision?

It was mentioned that this would be a tough sell to St. Paul's – & Fr. Mike may not be the rector deemed to serve if this is the case.

Father Mike: “parish isn't dependent on me”
Note from parish in Maine was read that states clusters can work.

If we go into a cluster, Fr. Mike's situation may change.
If we don't, the current finances will not permit us to keep him.

Question of the structure of Vestry in a cluster? Each Vestry has its own governing body. Each makes a contribution into financial entity.
It was suggested we table continuation of this discussion to a more appropriate venue.

Grace United Methodist Church meeting recap: would like to form a committee/task force to thrash out the details on how we could cohabitate, then offer that as a proposal to both churches. Meeting of St. Paul's parish community following Mass on December 3, 2006 to hear all opinions, comments. Those wishes will be communicated to Grace

UMC at a larger meeting Thursday November 2, 2006. It was noted that both St. Paul's and Grace UMC agree that any such sharing would be done using guidelines on interim Eucharistic sharing as approved by both our respective governance.

Regardless of the outcome of December 3rd's meeting, we have offered our church to Grace UMC to use for Christmas Service.

Current Christmas service schedule:

4pm St. Paul's family service, with invitation to Grace United Methodist,

8pm Grace United service, with invitation to St. Paul's

10pm combined service.

Next day 10am St. Paul's Sunday Christmas service.

Consensus is that all are quite excited about working with Grace.

Safe Church: good to go. Sue is contact person. Any adult who would like to bring children, we can supply child care coverage. High def screen is being put up. Samantha Lee has volunteered to baby sit, we need an adult to join her who is CORI cleared. Names & check sent in by Fr. Mike. 20-25 expected. Remember to bring lunches.

Sue presented her proposal on mental health practice to the vestry.

It was suggested that the Vestry review said proposal and discuss/possibly vote next meeting. Proposal is in separate attachment.

Hospitality: sign ups are filled thru December. Rich Litchfield is ready to go on "first Sunday breakfast".

Property

Hop news discussion re: solar/re-selling surplus energy. Could we qualify for a grant to install solar energy, then sell any surplus back to energy company? This (or other alternatives) need to be investigated due to the tired condition of our existing physical plant & the real possibility of furnace replacement in the near future.

Phil will further explore solar energy option/grant.

Communications: High def screen has arrived & is being put up by Fr. Mike.

Finance: Phil indicated budget committee met & drafted a budget to be submitted at December vestry meeting for discussion/approval. No other major finance announcements.

Stewardship: Mailing is about ready to go out. Another announcement in epistle. Chris will be speaking about Pledge this Sunday.

Attendance. Compared to 05 October down a touch, but 'stable'.
Grief support group at Sr. center.

Music: Gretchen substituted for Carol, and was paid out of Fr. Mike's discretionary fund.

Carol is recovering from shoulder surgery, and Gretchen will fill in again.
\$150 for full service.

Old Business:

Signature cards for checking accounts all filled out – we have backup folks to sign on the checking account.

Insurance policy going out for John Diercks to review.

New Business:

Broadband proposal by Chris to switch to Comcast – motion to make the switch by Peter.
Unanimously approved.

Changing table for restroom is approx \$300 – however Ruth is able to obtain one for free.
Ruth says the new vacuum cleaner “sucks”!!

Next Vestry meeting is December 6th.

December 1st, 6pm pot luck dinner scheduled.