

VESTRY MEETING

January 2, 2008

Attendees: Fr. Mike Billingsley, Dianne Belamarich, Ruth Warner, Steve Pelletier, Jay Jacobson, Gretchen Carr, Sue Ramsley, Phil Robidoux, John Diercks, Mary Arnaut, Peter Dittman

VESTRY BUSINESS

1. Opening Prayer – Fr. Mike led the vestry in opening prayer.
2. 12/5/07 vestry meeting minutes unanimously approved.
3. 2008 Vestry Nominating Committee Update (Committee) – Still no interest.
4. Collaboration Work:
 - Report of Collaboration Clergy Team (Fr. Mike) – Frank and Andy joined the Vestry meeting. The agreement is ready for us to “step into” although a few questions remain unanswered. Ex: how to pay the clergy. We should strive to simplify the administrative process. It needs to be determined what the responsibilities are of the Shepherd to St. Paul’s. The title doesn’t exist in the by-laws so we should forge ahead in identifying the role. It would seem that the Shepherd of the collaboration should be everything the Rector is to a single church. A motion was made and unanimously approved, by the vestry, for Andy to amend the by-laws to give the Shepherd the same authority as a rector as described in the by-laws and to be voted on at the annual meeting.
 - Fr. Mike/Fr. David Letter of Agreement for Jan. & Feb. 2008 – Needs to be amended to indicate how they will be paid and by which HMCM church. Also need to determine when Fr. Mike will be in Medway and when Fr. David will be in Hopkinton.
5. Reports:
 - Sunday School (Jay/Ruth) – nothing to report
 - Property (Ruth) – Jay drafted a letter to Ida regarding the situation downstairs. Ruth and Ida did speak about the situation so the letter is no longer necessary.
 - Hospitality (Gretchen) – Bishop Visit 2/17/08 to be held at St. Michael’s, Holliston, for HMCM.
 - Financial/Budget (Phil) – 2008 Proposed Budget discussion. Fr. Mike presented a budget showing the effect of the HMCM to help lighten the look of our 2008 Budget without rental income in the second half of the year. Phil presented the Budget to actual for 2007. While our income was better than it’s been in years, we ended up spending about \$10K more than we took in. Motion made and approved for Phil, to put forth the Budget proposed by Fr. Mike to the Annual Meeting, with one abstention. **As we do not provide Fr. Mike with a Rectory, \$36,000 of his total compensation is designated to be housing allowance to be applied to 2008 and all future years, unless otherwise specified.**
 - Outreach/Fund Raisers (Ruth/Dianne) – 2/8/08 Skinner Appraisal Event
 - Stewardship (John/Steve) – \$59,694 in pledges with 8 of those “new” pledges. There’s a handful of people who have always pledged and have yet to pledge this year. Several phone messages have been left for them...what to do next?
 - Safe Church (Jay) – Safe church policy manual unanimously approved by the vestry.
 - GUMC General Update (Jay) – No update on signage
 - Priest-in-Residence Report (Fr. Mike)
 - Meeting on Feb 9th from 9:30 to 12:30 at St. Mark’s in Burlington for small churches. Fr. Mike has been asked to speak about the collaboration effort.
 - December numbers were up, but down for the quarter as compared to prior years. But for the 4 quarters in 2007, 4th quarter was the highest.

- The Christmas services were not as well attended as they've been in past years. May want to rethink what we do next year.
6. Old Business:
 - Downstairs Rental – We should start advertising for tenant prospects.
 - 1/27/08 Annual Meeting – Reports must be to Dianne by 1/17/08
 7. New Business
 8. Eagle Scout Project Update:
 - Nick Dittman (Peter) – nothing new to report
 9. Next vestry meeting Wed., 1/30/08, 7:00 PM
 10. Closing prayer and adjournment – Fr. Mike lead the vestry in a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.