

APPROVED

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Minutes of Vestry Meeting, October 16, 2007

Opening Prayer – Lucinda opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with a prayer. Those in attendance were Rector Lucinda Laird, Helen Jones and Jim Trimble. Vestry members present were Steve Cherry, Shannon Frey, Lee Fletcher, Jay Lambert, Matrid Ndife, Linda Wardell, Sharon Nesmith, Greg Petrites, Bill Stodghill, Dwayne Watson, Bev Weis and Mike Lambert (Youth Representative). Absent were Peter Bell, Jan Garver and Edie Nixon. Vickie Danahy was present as a special guest.

The meeting continued with the Building the Spirit Prayer.

Reflection – Matrid Ndife shared a moving reflection regarding her realization that the acting out of faith is a developmental process that occurs over years. She shared how her experiences as a young girl, with a friend in Africa, and later during her own personal challenges had brought her to a point where she was able to find great meaning in prayer and expressed it as her own “walk in the woods.”

Minutes – Minutes from the September 18th meeting were amended to reflect that under the section entitled “Vestry Study of Human Sexuality” the first sentence of the Section should read, “It is the consensus of the Vestry that, as part of our pastoral care to all our parishioners, St. Matthew’s would like to offer the possibility of same sex blessings.” This change to the September minutes was approved unanimously as was the balance of the September minutes.

Staff Report – Debbi Rodahaffer was unable to attend the meeting due to her mother’s illness and will report instead in November.

Financial Report – Jim Moyer stated that the September Total Income and Transfers were \$64,462. The September budget was \$74,065. This left a difference of \$9603. He noted that plate offerings were down by approximately \$9600 and that operating expenses for fuel, light and water were up by \$1615 and that building maintenance was up by \$4293. He also noted a one-time expense of approximately \$1300 for window cleaning. Also noted was an expenditure of \$4839 for additional hardware for a computer backup system and phone system. He also noted church school expenses were over budget by \$1436. Jim stated that the expenses were over budget by about \$10,000 for the month with income down by about \$9000 for a total deficit for the month of approximately \$19,000 which compared favorably to the \$42,000 deficit at this point last year.

Building The Spirit Update – The Building The Spirit update was provided by Lee Fletcher and Linda Wardell. Lee stated that there were now 368 pledges/gifts for a total of \$2,764,531.60. Lucinda announced that parishioner Ellen Allen had left a bequest of \$71,324.38 to St. Matthews. This gift is one third of the total bequest shared with two other charities. A motion was made and seconded that this bequest be directed toward the capital campaign. This motion was unanimously passed.

Linda Wardell stated that the Capital Campaign had approximately \$367,000 in cash on hand and that a \$40,000 bill had come in for kitchen equipment. She noted that the sound system for Clingman Hall was not yet completed. She also stated that the interest rate for the entire project was not yet locked in and was still floating. She expected it to lock in in December.

Lee Fletcher made a motion that \$100,000 of the loan be paid down and that Linda be directed to do so which was seconded by Linda Wardell. This motion was then passed unanimously.

Every Member Canvass – Lucinda encouraged the Vestry members to renew and, if possible, increase their pledges. General discussion followed regarding the campaign and that it was hoped that the number of pledges from last year (308) would increase to 330 this year. There was also discussion as to whether it was more effective for Vestry members to call parishioners from home or to set up a phone bank as has been done in the past.

Old Business –

- Vestry nominations – After a general discussion it was suggested by Sharon Nesmith that a notice regarding nominations be placed in the *Spirit* Newsletter.
- Sexton – There was a general discussion as to how the new sexton was working out. The staff reported that Matthew is working out quite well. The Vestry would like to meet him at some convenient time. Thanks was made to Sam Bridge for his efforts in finding the new sexton.
- Diocesan Convention - Lucinda stated that the Convention would be coming up and encouraged any interested Vestry members to volunteer to attend.

Committee Updates

- Social Concerns – Sharon Nesmith noted that Social Concerns had contacted the Red Cross regarding the use of the church for emergency shelter. The committee felt the personnel and facility requirements are too demanding at this time so declined. Sharon highlighted some of the requirements and the vestry agreed with Social Concerns Committee's conclusion.

- Outreach Committee – Lucinda noted that the Outreach Committee recommended dividing the Christmas offering (per Robert Huffman’s written request) equally between St. Anna’s Medical Mission in New Orleans and The Healing Place in Louisville. A motion was made by Bill Stodghill that the Christmas offering be divided evenly between the Healing Place in Louisville and St. Anna’s Medical Mission in New Orleans and other parish needs as St. Anna’s determined. This motion was approved unanimously.
- Green Team – Greg Petrites stated that the Green Team had been exploring fundraising possibilities and had requested \$500 to buy 100 cloth bags (with an appropriate logo) at \$4.88 each to be sold at an anticipated price of around \$10 each. A motion was made and seconded to approve a loan of \$550 to the Green Team from Committee Expenses for this purpose. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Mission Space – Matrid Ndife stated that the committee needed guidance as to whether rent, if any, to prospective tenants in the Mission Office space was to be for the purpose of achieving a profit. She also noted that it had yet to be determined what the appropriate charge would be for the space and whether it should be rented or donated. There was general discussion that expenses borne by the relevant organizations such as copies, phone, and faxes should be borne by the organizations themselves and that it would not be appropriate for them to be using St. Matthew’s resources in that regard. Sharon Nesmith noted that Roger Deutschke works for a non-profit regarding focusing on returning veterans and there was general consensus that it would be appropriate to follow up on this potential use for the mission space. It was also suggested that there be a mechanism for periodic review of the use of the mission space and whoever may be selected for the space.
- Library – Lee Fletcher advised that steady progress was being made in the development of the library. He stated that groups were now using it and that the display cases highlighting books and church archives photographs were being used. He stated that about a quarter of the books were now catalogued and shared with the Vestry a brochure that the Committee had developed about the library.

Debriefing on meeting with Bishop – There was general discussion about the meeting the Vestry had attended with Bishop Gulick regarding the issue of same sex blessings. A general feeling of frustration was expressed regarding Bishop Gulick’s recommendation that we practice forbearance; in dealing with the same sex blessings issue. Nonetheless it was also recognized and acknowledged that there was a need to proceed cautiously in an effort to meet obligations to same sex partners and others in the parish while also meeting duties and obligations to the diocese and larger church.

New Business –

- It was noted that the St. MAM’s banquet is scheduled for November 13. That is the date of our Vestry meeting so we will not be attending as a group. We were encouraged to

invite others to attend.

- Budget Preparation meetings were set as follows:

11-29 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for the “Dream Meeting”

12-11 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the Budget Meeting*

12-18 for the December regular Vestry Meeting

Associate Rector’s Report

The meeting was concluded at approximately 9:30 p.m. followed by Compline.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Lambert, Acting Secretary

Edited by,

Jan Garver, Secretary

*Editor’s note: This meeting was later canceled so that the committee would have more time to research needed information for budget preparation before it was ready to present to the entire vestry.