

## **Calvary Episcopal Church**

### **Vestry Meeting**

#### **Minutes**

Emison Room

June 13, 2006, 6:00 p.m.

**Vestry Present:** Clay Bethell, Chris Bird, Anne Connell, Giles Coors, Susanne Darnell, Donna Davis, James Dowd, Jan Elam, Doug Ferris, Suzanne Henley, David Lusk, Hester Mathes, Billy Oates, Fred Piper, Connie Ross, and Peg Wahl.

**Vestry Absent:** Scott Crosby, Keith James.

**Clergy Present:** Rev. Andy MacBeth, Rev. Bonnie Malone

The St. Clare candle remained lit and the brass figure of Christ was passed throughout the meeting to encourage continuous prayer.

The meeting was opened with prayer led by James Dowd.

**Spiritual Reflection:** Andy MacBeth led the group in a Bible study of I Samuel 15:34-16:13.

#### **Report from Facilities Planning Committee**

Jan Elam noted that the vestry had approved payment of \$20,000 to architect Terry Eason for initial work on a plan to renovate the sanctuary through an email vote.

Chris Bird and Andy MacBeth reported that the committee has been working with TRO architects. They may be ready to present drawings and pricing at the August vestry meeting. Architect Terry Eason is not as far along with his work, but it is hoped that he will catch up. He specializes in renovation of church interiors and his examples of his work may be viewed on his web site [www.easonandfarlow.com](http://www.easonandfarlow.com).

#### **Update on Acquiring Law Building**

Andy MacBeth reported that two of the three law partners who own the building want to sell it; there is a good likelihood that it can be purchased. He reported that Joe Steffner thinks we would be wise put ourselves in position to act quickly. A first step would be to do an inspection of the building now. Joe has requested that TRO be used to do the inspection and that \$2990 be authorized for that purpose. There was a consensus that this be done.

In the event that the property becomes available, an offer of \$225,000 could be made, based on a property appraisal. The importance of an environmental assessment was noted; it was suggested that Joe explore the possibility of an environmental contingency on the purchase.

#### **Report on Formation of Committee to Look at Racial Inclusiveness**

Bonnie Malone reported on the formation of a committee to examine racial inclusiveness at Calvary. This committee has been formed in response to a charge from the House of Bishops to address the sin of racism. Doug Ferris, Danita Beck, Jim Boyd, Harriet MacFadden, and Allison Wetter have been asked to serve on the committee. Bonnie Malone distributed a handout describing four approaches which the committee is planning to take in its work. Connie Ross volunteered to serve on the committee. Increased racial diversity will be sought for the committee by adding other Calvary members.

### **Report on Historic Partner Calvary Place**

Connie Ross reported information she had gathered on Calvary Place, one of Calvary's historic partner organizations. The program was initiated in 1993 after a feasibility study; it was expected to be self-supporting through fees. Wages paid to staff are favorable for child care workers who usually receive low wages. The board for Calvary Place typically includes representation from Calvary, usually clergy, though there is no requirement to that effect.

Of the 83 children currently enrolled, 10 are from Calvary families. there is a 20% fee reduction for church employees. The program is currently at capacity with a waiting list. In addition to fees, financial support was provided last year through Calvary outreach funds (\$5,000), a grant from the Calvary Endowment (\$6,482), and contributions from individuals. Calvary Place has a small endowment. Fees range from \$175 per week for infants to \$135 for four year olds. A written report from Cap Pinkham describing in-kind support provided by Calvary to the program was distributed.

The mission of the program emphasizes diversity. The highest standards are maintained; the program has been nationally accredited since 1996 and has a three star rating from the state.

There is no formal agreement defining the relationship between Calvary and Calvary Place. Connie Ross recommended that the vestry consider a contract expressing that relationship. It was suggested that more information be gathered and a formal agreement be proposed. Hester Mathes and Susanne Darnell agreed to work on this with Jan Elam.

### **Report On Status of Proposal for Coffee Shop**

Andy MacBeth reported that the committee considering the feasibility of a coffee shop is continuing its work and will report later in the year. There have been reports of plans for a commercial coffee shop in the area.

### **Report on Plan for Checkbooks of Calvary Organization Accounts**

Jan Elam reported that vestry members will be asked to assist in contacting various groups within the church who have not yet turned over their financial record-keeping to Rick Fortin. The ECW has done this.

### **Rector's Report**

#### Worship

Andy MacBeth reported that about 30 persons are attending the 7:45 am service. An altar has been placed at the foot of the chancel steps, which draws the small group closer in the celebration of the Eucharist. The new 9:30 am time for the summer second service has resulted in increased attendance at the 10:45 education offerings. There were 93 persons for the Great Hall class last Sunday.

Three groups will reflect on worship at Calvary in the coming weeks. One will focus on music, addressing the question of what a good music program at Calvary should look like. Dee Wallace and Chris Hansen will chair this group which will survey other Episcopal churches to learn about their programs. Two other groups, one focusing on the 9:00 am service and the other on the 11:15 am service, will meet on June 17. Andy MacBeth noted that it was important to have persons in the pews giving feedback.

Beginning in the fall, there will be changes in children's chapel. Second and third graders will sit with their parents during the entire service.

#### General Convention Report

Next Wednesday evening, June 19, Calvary will host a meeting to report on the General Convention. Grace-St. Luke, St. Mary, and Church of the Holy Communion members will be invited to attend.

#### Hospitality Center

On June 14 a meeting of representatives from the Downtown Churches will meet to plan for a hospitality center for temporary homeless to be set up in the former Calvary Learning Center on Jefferson. Tentative plans are to staff it seven days a week for three hours a day. It will provide coordination among the downtown churches as they are approached by individuals for help. Services provided would include laundry facilities, mail boxes, computer access, and traveler's aid. Each church will contribute professional staff time and volunteer time.

New plumbing, washers and dryers, electrical connections, dehumidifier for the basement will require expenditure of funds. A motion to approve up to \$20,000 for this project was approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Giles Coors presented an overview of financial statements as of April 30, 2006. The positive trend in income from pledges and tithes, monthly levels of giving, and actual expenditures vs. budget continues.

To date, it has not been necessary to draw down funds based upon the loan arrangement agreed upon with the Calvary Endowment. After discussion, a motion was approved to drawn upon restricted funds for current operating expenses, given the certain expectation of pledge receipts.

#### **Approval of May Minutes**

Minutes for May meeting were approved.

## **New Business or Old Business**

### Mission statement

Andy MacBeth report that the first part of the mission statement seems to have general approval; work on the bullets in the second part will continue.

### Calvary Medal for Rev. Bob Bartusch

A motion to award the Calvary Medal to Rev. Bob Bartusch for his many years of service to Calvary was approved unanimously. A list of all persons who have received the Calvary Medal was distributed.

## **Vestry Mailbox**

Jan Elam noted that e-mails regarding Andy MacBeth's remarks about Calvary Place in his state of the parish report had been received during the past month; these were passed on to the vestry. A thank you for Calvary's contribution to Virginia Seminary has also been received.

## **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

By consensus of the vestry, there will be no vestry meeting in July.

Warden's meeting, July 25, 6:00 pm at Susanne Darnell's home.

## **Good of the Order**

Andy MacBeth told vestry members that he wanted the vestry to know that he looked forward to our meetings and noted that it was not always a rector's experience to anticipate vestry meetings with pleasure.

Chris Bird asked for prayers for his father who had a heart attack a few days earlier.

## **Executive Session**

There was no need for an executive session.

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was approved.

The meeting was closed with prayer led by Andy MacBeth.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susanne B. Darnell, Clerk