

Calvary Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

Minutes

Emison Room

November 14, 2006, 6:00 p.m.

Vestry Present: Chris Bird, Giles Coors, Scott Crosby, Susanne Darnell, Donna Davis, James Dowd, Jan Elam, Doug Ferris, Suzanne Henley, Keith James, David Lusk, Hester Mathes, Billy Oates, Fred Piper, Peg Wahl.

Vestry Absent: Clay Bethell, Anne Connell, Connie Ross.

Clergy Present: Rev. Eyleen Farmer

Staff Present: Cap Pinkham.

Guest Present: Joe Steffner

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 Fred Piper.

Spiritual Reflection: Eyleen Farmer asked the group to reflect upon the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday, Mark 13:1-8, and discuss its meaning.

Treasurer's Report

Giles Coors reported that all financial indicators are positive as the end of the year approaches. To date, only \$300,000 has been drawn down of the approved loan of \$625,000 for operating expenses from the Endowment for this year; this has reduced interest payments for 2006. The balance of this loan will now be drawn down. Revenues continue to exceed the same time last year. Even with a few over-budget expenditures, total expenses should be at or below budget for the year.

Ordination Form for Rev. Eyleen Farmer

Jan Elam presented a form for all members of the vestry to sign, affirming the candidacy of Eyleen Farmer for the priesthood, to which she will be ordained in January 2008.

Update on Facilities Renovations and Law Building

Joe Steffner presented this report. Negotiations for purchase of the law building at the corner of Second and Jefferson have not proceeded due to the fact that there is now a lawsuit between the three partners who own the building. It appears that these individuals do want Calvary to purchase the building.

At present, TRO architects have completed two plans for renovation; one is quite extensive, the other is less so. After receiving responses to these two plans, the committee has decided that a third plan is needed which will respond to several concerns expressed. It is also likely to be more modest in scope. Currently \$5,000 is owed to TRO for work completed. An additional payment of \$8,000 will need to be made

to TRO to cover the cost of the third plan. This will result in a total of \$38,000 paid to TRO for design costs. In addition to the TRO plans, Terry Easson has completed two plans for the renovation of the sanctuary for consideration.

There was considerable discussion of the process of planning for the renovation of the buildings, the extent to which usage of facilities had been taken into account, authorization of funds by the vestry for design costs, the vestry's role in making a final decision, and the timing of that decision. Minutes from the February 2006 vestry meeting were circulated, showing that the vestry had approved an expenditure of up to \$50,000 for design costs and had agreed on a list of ten "needs and wants" for the committee to take into consideration in planning for renovation. There was consensus that the vestry needs to schedule a special meeting with members of the Facilities Renovation Committee to learn more about the plans from TRO. Jan Elam will consult with Andy MacBeth and set a date in December for this meeting.

Update on Stewardship Campaign

Cap Pinkham reported on the status of the stewardship campaign. He reported that while the dollar amount pledged is adequate, the number of pledging units to date is very disappointing. To date, only 303 pledging units have made a commitment, leaving about 99 units that pledged in the past, but have not pledged this year. There are 597 households within Calvary. He noted that Calvary must broaden its base for the future and not depend as much on large donors. A proposed budget for 2008 will be presented from the Finance Committee at the next vestry meeting.

Report from Vestry Nominating Committee

Jan Elam noted that nominations for the new vestry class were complete and had been sent previously by e-mail. The following persons have been nominated: Bob O'Connor, Bill Henry, Dale Charlton, Len Grice, Charles Dorroh, Michelle Fulmer, Gayle Spence, David Baling, Mary Jane Fuller, John Sharp.

Rector's Report

A written report from Andy MacBeth was distributed. He is currently in Jacksonville attending an Alban Institute workshop for large-parish clergy, focused on "Leading Multi-Staff Teams". His report included the following topics.

Service in the Wider Church

Andy MacBeth currently serves as president of the Downtown Churches Association clergy group. He is also a trustee of the Virginia Theological Seminary, which involves two or three trips a year to Washington for meetings.

The 7:45 Service

Andy MacBeth has spent a lot of time listening to regular attendees of this service. A number of practical issues have been resolved, and he is optimistic that this service can welcome new worshipers and still meet the needs of regular attendees.

Music Task Force

This group, chaired by Chris Hanson and Dee Wallace, is wrapping up its work and will have a report soon, with a vision for music at Calvary and goals to pursue.

Bishop Robert Johnson

The former bishop of Western North Carolina will be present on December 10, when two infants will be baptized at 9 and two adults at 11:15, with about 20 persons being confirmed and received. Bishop Don Johnson will visit the Sunday after Easter for a second Confirmation Sunday, which will include mature teens. Their preparation will begin in January.

Update on Music Task Force

Hester Mathes reported the group has established goals for the music program at Calvary, including more participation, especially of children. They have also agreed that music should include a variety of styles, balanced within the worship of the church.

Report on Historic Partners

Reports on partner groups will continue next month.

Approval of October Minutes

Minutes for October 2006 meeting were approved.

New Business or Old Business

Letter relating to Checkbook Process

No progress was reported on the development of a letter about the checkbook progress.

Request for Review of Insurance, Termite Damage, Disaster Plans

Keith James will give an update on this review at the next meeting. He said that he had found no evidence of a disaster plan for Calvary and asked anyone with any information on this to contact him.

Update from Committee on the Calvary Medal

The committee did not have a report.

Arrangement with First Works

Cap Pinkham reported that an agreement has been worked out with First Works, a 501C3 agency displaced from First Methodist Church by the October fire. First Works will occupy the former Street Ministry building on Second Street for an undetermined length of time, with a 90 day notice of vacancy. No rent will be collected, but a payment of \$1250 per month will be paid to Calvary to cover utilities, parking, and insurance.

Diocesan Convention Alternates

Jan Elam presented the following names for approval as alternates to Calvary delegates to the 2008 Diocesan Convention: Jan Elam, Lee Wakeman, and Susanne Darnell. The vestry voted to approved these alternates. Delegates to the Convention are Tommy Parker, Gene Nobles, Mary Jane Viar, and Dot Neale.

Alcohol Guidelines

A copy of Guidelines for Alcohol Use at Calvary Church Gatherings was distributed. Questions have been posed to vestry members about the implementation of this policy. It will be discussed further at the December vestry meeting.

Request to Form Waffle Shop Committee

Jan Elam reported on meetings that she and Susanne Darnell had with leaders of the Waffle Shop. She requested that the vestry authorize the appointment of a Waffle Shop Committee. The first task of the committee will be to work toward transition to new leadership, given the fact that two principal leaders, Jane Barton and Shirley Browne,

are ready to hand on their tasks after many years of outstanding service. The vestry voted to authorize a Waffle Shop Committee.

Vestry Mailbox

There were no items from the vestry mailbox.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Warden's Committee meeting, November 28 after the Council of Ministries meeting

Vestry Meeting, December 12, at Anne Connell's home at 6:00 pm
Council of Ministries, November 28, 6:00 pm--All group members will attend.

Vestry Christmas Brunch, December 17, after the 11:15 service at the home of Fred and Jill Piper

Ordination of Rev. Eyleen Farmer to the priesthood, January 6, 2007, 10:30 am, Calvary Episcopal Church

Good of the Order

Gene Nobles had a heart attack last week, but is recovering well. Benjamin Smith is doing well, following his surgery.

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was approved.

The meeting was closed with prayer led by Eyleen Farmer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne B. Darnell, Clerk