

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
VESTRY MEETING
Monday 17 September 2018

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Clergy Present: The Rev. Canon Patricia Grace, The Rev. Bill Bennett, The Rev. Dr. Cheryl McFadden

Vestry Members Present: Don Blankenship, Jack Boyne, Van Giersch, Jan Harris, Kevin LeCount, Margaret Nobles, Kitty Pruitt, Ed Sharp, Sheldon Smith, Karen Sommerville, and Jeffrey Whittaker

Meeting Called to Order by Rev. Canon Patricia Grace at 6:03 PM

Prayer of Thanksgiving after the Hurricane with everyone present adding a personal prayer of gratefulness.

Dwelling in the Word: Mark 4:35-41. Jesus Calms the Storm was appropriate after the week of the Hurricane.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion to accept minutes with a minor amendment (Made by Jan Harris/Seconded by Sheldon Smith): **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Finance Committee Report: The July and August reports were not approved in previous meetings but were presented to the Vestry before this meeting. These reports were outlined by the Senior Warden and offered for approval.

The September financial meeting had not taken place because the Church office was closed 12-16 September due to weather concerns. (The 10:15 AM Sunday service was held on the 16th as the only church activity during this interval.)

Budgets from individual committees are now overdue and should be sent to Caryl Fuller as soon as possible.

Approval of Financial Reports: [Attached: 07 18 FinConn Report.pdf; 06 18 FinConn Report.pdf].

Motion to accept July and August Financial Reports (Jan Harris/Margaret Nobles): PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Rector's Report: [Attached: Rector's report.docx]

- Hurricane Update
 - The Diocese Response is described on the Diocese website
 - The Episcopal Relief & Development is accepting donations.
 - The Golf Outing proceeds will go to Hurricane Disaster Relief.

- Personal Gifts to individual rectors in flooded areas is often the most direct way to provide help.
- Rev. Grace recommended that the financial health of the parish can be better viewed using an accrual basis of accounting. (The key difference for CGS is that in accrual-based accounting an expense is recorded when it occurs and not when it is paid.)
- A further recommendation was for a balanced 2019 budget. This was thoroughly discussed.

Motion to transition from the current practice of a cash-based accounting system to an accrual system on January 1, 2019, and to strive for a balanced budget in 2019 with an absolute balanced budget in 2020. (Kevin LeCount/Van Giersch) **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Causing confusion in understanding the cost of operating CGS is what Rev. Grace calls, “spot fundraising.” Spot fundraising is the current practice of raising money for specific projects, but not the overall infrastructure costs. This was debated with several examples given.

Action: A process will be developed to capture specific project funding opportunities and communicate these to the congregation.

- The stormwater project report is reported in the Rector’s report, but there is concern about the need to front \$70,000 for the project. The Vestry is charged to determine how to handle these costs.
- The Celtic Eucharist will be 30 September with Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple as speaker. Canned goods to donate to Shepherd’s Table will be requested.

Associate Rector’s Report

Rev. Bill Bennett

- There will be no men’s retreat due to insufficient enrollment.
- The LBGTQ retreat will be held.
- Adult Christian Formation classes have been published in a brochure in the Parish Life Center.

Rev. Dr. Cheryl McFadden (Report Attached: Office of Family Ministry Vestry Update September 2018.docx (sic))

- A parishioner has offered to make a financial gift for the Good Shepherd Playground and Prayer Garden.
- Other items are listed in the attached report.

Action: Rev. McFadden will present a proposal for the playground with costs to the Vestry

Senior Warden’s Report: [Report Attached: Senior Warden report September.docx]

- A nominating committee will be formed from the Vestry members who are leaving the Vestry. The target will be to have two candidates for each open position.

Action: Rev. Grace will call a meeting of the outgoing members to discuss the process.

- The Vestry Covenant was distributed at the previous meeting. It was circulated for signatures. [Covenant Attached: vestry covenant.docx]

Action: The Vestry Covenant was signed by all the Vestry members.

- The Senior Warden recommends establishing the Stewardship and Membership Committee Chairs as two-term appointments. Also recommended is a co-chair who assumes the chairperson position after two years. This would give better continuity to these critical committees.
- He recommends that all Vestry members become active in the “Back to the Basics” classes.
- The 6th Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday 29 October. Non-golfing volunteers are asked to help so that the Church office will remain open. Previously the staff assisted in the Tournament.

Junior Warden’s Report:

- The recent air conditioning problems in the Church have been solved. The cost is still unknown and will be presented later.
- There is a request that greater access is given to the control room for the air conditioning because of various activities in the Church at all hours sometimes require adjustment.

Action: A process to educate and provide access to the air conditioning control room will be established by the Junior Warden.

Committees:

Stewardship – Presented by Dr. Boyne [Report: Stewardship Committee Report – September 2018.docx]

- Church membership list is being reviewed to designate parishioner’s relationship to the Church. Designations such as active, children of members, pledging, etc. were discussed to maintain a sensitivity to each person’s membership in the Good Shepherd community. This is being done to better focus the stewardship efforts.
- Ideas were discussed to increase the understanding of what it takes to run this church.
- A short list of key generous givers will be given to Stewardship committee and Vestry members to call, thank and solicit their input on ways of increasing future donations.

Fellowship- Presented by Van Giersch. [Report: Fellowship Committee Report 9.16.18.docx]

- Combined Rally Day and Ministries Fair were successful and suggestions for next year's fair was noted.
- Donations were \$132.
- Next events: Oyster Roast and Christmas Party but these events are not scheduled yet.

Volunteers – Presented by Jan Harris.

- Ten parishioners signed up for various ministries at Rally Day.

Family Ministry Christian Education – presented by Margret Nobles

- Meeting scheduled for 12 September.

Communications Committee – presented by Ed Sharp

- Met with Kirk Royal.
- The website has received accolades from Parishioners.
- Integrated bulletin and notices have been well-received.
- Branding of Good Shepherd is being done with consistency in posters, email, and other documents.
- Next focus is social media trying to sort out Facebook sites etc.

Membership – presented by Karen Sommerville

- Meeting of the Membership Committee 19 September. The book “Invite, Welcome Connect” is being followed.
- Newcomers Classes are starting 23 September.

Beyond Our Doors – presented by Kitty Pruitt

- Dinner with Neighbors in the Soup Kitchen 23 September after the 10:15 Service.
- The budget has been submitted.

Old Business:

1. The study committee for security issues is being assembled. The target date for completion is 31 December.
2. The Red Cross Facility Survey stalled because of a failure of the Red Cross to return calls. This effort was to designate CGS as triage, staging area in the event of a disaster to direct victims to appropriate shelters. The Red Cross examined our facility, but the next steps were not accomplished.

Action: Junior Warden will call the contacts at the Red Cross to see if there are immediate next steps. Otherwise, this will be tabled for the new rector.

Associate Rectors Excused and the Meeting goes into executive session.

Search Committee – Presented by Jan Harris and Sheldon Smith.

- The Search Committee will be commissioned on 30 September.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. with a recitation of the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey W. Whittaker, PhD
Registrar

Attached:

- Rector's Report
- Agenda
- Senior Warden's Report
- Family Ministry Report
- Vestry Covenant
- Stewardship Report
- Fellowship Report

The next regular meeting of the Vestry is scheduled for 8 October 2018