

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of
St. David's Episcopal Church
February 24, 2009

APPROVED

Members Present: John Barclay, Clay Carsner, Judith Cayton, Deborah Delgado, Mary Elliott, Ann Marie Ellis, Jennifer Gerber, Barbara Grove, Donald Hungerford, Pam O'Conner, Timothy Parker, Kristin Runkle, Paul Skeith, Peter Techmanski

Members Absent: Amy Case

Others Present: David Boyd, Rector; Ken Malcolm, Associate Priest; Terry Nathan, Parish Administrator; Frank Baldwin, Treasurer

Opening scripture and reflection – David Boyd.

Senior Warden Mary Elliott called the business meeting to order and advised progress made on moving toward a “strategic” church. The executive committee will set the agenda for Vestry meetings; only four standing committees will report every meeting. Mission teams will provide reports to the executive committee on an “as needed” basis.

Clay Carsner presented the Stewardship Committee's report, summarized in excellent color graphs. The number of pledges this year has increased over the number at this time last year. Vestry members expressed gratitude for the congregation's generous response to the Rector's call to increase pledge amounts.

Clay then reported that the Board of the Day School was considering making a \$50,000 gift from its reserves to the general fund of the church with goodwill and trust that the church will support St. David's children and their families. Clay explained that the Day School usually makes an annual gift of \$5000, so this gift is the equivalent of 10 years of their traditional gift. This year the Day School is considering making an extraordinary gift because now is the time to share with the Church so that the Church can do God's work; however, this extraordinary gift does not preclude additional gifts in the next 10 years. Further, the Day School will continue to provide unlimited clergy scholarships to children of St. David's clergy and will provide a maximum of \$7500 annually to children of St. David's staff. The Day School Board has requested (see attached Stewardship Committee Report for details):

- ❖ that the existing terms of the contract between the school and church for rent the school pays be frozen for 10 years
- ❖ that school staff be given the same parking privileges as the church staff
- ❖ that the Day School be provided with free use of church space of its summer camps (David explained that the Church asked the School Board to contribute to the sexton's pay for extra work during the summer events)

Pam O'Conner moved to accept the conditions of the Day School's \$50,000 gift; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Clay then advised that the Stewardship Committee needed direction from the Vestry on fundraising. The Vestry asked for a plan next month on how the children's choir and outreach committee were to raise \$10,000 each.

Ann Marie Ellis, chair of the Finance Committee, commended Clay and the Stewardship Committee for their leadership. Terry Nathan passed out the newly revised draft budget. The new revision incorporates the increased amount of pledges and thus restores some of the monies cut on January 20th from the children's choir, staff pay, and some program money. This draft leaves in a transfer from the church reserves and a transfer from Next to New. Terry noted that while the revised draft budget is balanced, it is unaudited. Some numbers may be revised after the auditors comment on the church's finances. Ann Marie presented the following motions from the Finance Committee (see attached for more detail):

- For the Vestry to adopt the revised budget
- For the Stewardship Committee to use a bookkeeping approach to reflect changes in income and pledges on a monthly basis
- For the Treasurer to adopt a separate financial statement for the Hospitality Committee to array its expenses and income separately
- For the Vestry to approve a payment of \$5500 to a former employee as part of claimed pension benefits.

The first three motions passed unanimously. After preliminary discussion of the fourth motion, Paul Skeith moved that the Vestry go into Executive Session to discuss this personnel matter. Paul's motion was approved. The Vestry went into a special Executive Session. Upon the completion of the special Executive Session, the Vestry passed the fourth motion unanimously.

The report from the Strategic Planning Committee was tabled, as Amy Case is out of the country.

Mary reviewed the change in structure of 2009 Vestry meetings and the priorities for 2009 (identified at the Retreat): Archives (chaired by John Barclay), Social Justice (chaired by Paul Skeith), Youth, and Entry Point Service (Jennifer, Clay, Judy, Donnie, Ann Marie and Pam)

Parish Entities Update:

- Terry reported that the garage made a \$33,000 profit in January. No reason to think garage income will change significantly. Frank books taxes monthly, as the church must pay income tax on its unrelated business income, such as garage income. Terry stated that there would be a potential to manage the Archives Building garage. Nothing is currently happening on the proposal for solar panels on the garage roof.
- The Day School is already full for next school year.
- The Foundation has decided to distribute 5% of average earnings of last 13 quarters, which will result in a \$259,245 payment to the Church's debt service.
- Next to New is installing tiles to honor donors of building fund.
- Warm Heart International is glad to sponsor the current visit of Bishop Dena Harrison and Tom Gephardt to Malawi (Tom pays his own way). The Diocese of Texas is moving into a more formal relationship with the Diocese of Southern Malawi. Bishop Tengatenga, a classmate of Bishop Harrison, will visit in May. The Heart to Heart Gala netted over \$5000.

Pam O'Conner announced that there were 8 members of St. David's at the recent Daughters of the King convocation at St. Matthew's.

Members of the newly named Amos Guild discussed plans to live into the social gospel. Barbara Grove shared her experience of the last year assessing Austin Interfaith's work. She reported positively on her encounters. Melody Middleton, a parishioner who lives in Travis Park Apartments, reported how Austin Interfaith advocated for tenants there in a request for an after-school program for students at Travis Heights Elementary, similar to such programs at other Title VIII housing communities. The Rector witnessed how he feels that St. David's is called to effect change to benefit the oppressed. While Austin Interfaith should not be the only area we engage in the social gospel, David favors involvement in that organization. Discussion followed, including concerns of how any organization with political ties could be divisive. Several Vestry members

stated that they felt St. David's should be non-partisan. John Barclay recommended checking with the Chancellor to determine if the parish's joining Austin Interfaith could effect the church's section 501(c)(3) exemption. The Rector suggested a straw vote. Paul Skeith, on a point of order, moved for a binding vote, on his motion (see attached) that the Rector would, at the time he felt appropriate, have St. David's pay Austin Interfaith a reduced membership fee of \$5000. The motion was amended so that the \$5000 would be taken from the Outreach budget. Vestry members requested Amos Guild members to keep the congregation informed of the plans and actions of Austin Interfaith to allay concerns. The motion carried by a vote of 10 to 3, with one abstention. The Rector then led the Vestry in prayer.

Vestry Action:

- Approved new board member, Molly Sharpe, for St. David's Episcopal Church Foundation
- Approved distribution (Foundation Board recommended no higher than 5%). Clay Carsner moved to accept the 5% distribution; Pam O'Conner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously
- Resolved to accept the recommendation from the Directors of St. David's Foundation to distribute, in 2009, only from the Foundation Funds needed for debt service.
- Approved election results of the Board of Directors for Next to New for the following officers:
 - ❖ Chair – Jim Watt
 - ❖ Chair-elect – Alice Travis
 - ❖ Treasurer – Jerry McCulley
 - ❖ Treasurer-elect – Jean Strehli
 - ❖ Secretary – Nan Hazel
- Approved nominees for Board positions of Trinity Center. The six nominees are:
 - ❖ The Rev. Bert Baetz
 - ❖ Tom Brotherton
 - ❖ Deborah Fowler
 - ❖ Carolyn Miller
 - ❖ Jim Robertson
 - ❖ Ashley Unbehagen
- Approved Board member nominations for the Board of Directors of Warm Heart International:
 - ❖ Russ Hubbard (Youth Advisory Director) and
 - ❖ James McClure (Director)

The Rector asked for a Vestry letter of support for Janet Zimmerman's ordination to the deaconate, which is scheduled for June 20th. Pam O'Conner moved that the Vestry so approve Ms. Zimmerman; Donnie Hungerford seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The letter of support was prepared and signed.

The Rector asked the Vestry to empower him to form a discernment committee for Christina Mendoza. Amy Case will serve on this committee. Pam O'Conner so moved; Donnie Hungerford seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Rector announced that Beth McGill, ordained at Berkely Seminary, visited the parish and is considering accepting an offer as Youth Director. The Rector hopes to bring Beth on staff in August. David will return to the Vestry with a proposal as to how to pay five months of salary in 2009 for a Youth Director.

Deborah Delgado tendered her resignation effective April 1, 2009, due to a promotion. Her new work is based in Houston, so she will not be able to attend Vestry meetings. She spoke of how much she had enjoyed her time on the Vestry. The Rector and Senior Warden thanked Deborah for her service and asked that Vestry members forward names of good candidates for the Vestry position so that the Senior Warden could soon ask a candidate to fill the upcoming vacancy.

John Barclay, Timothy Parker and Terry Nathan met with the architects for the Archives Project. They informed the Archives Committee that St. David's participation would be on an equity basis. Terry anticipates that the Archives Committee will come to St. David's with a proposal in two to three months.

Financial statements were approved.

Minutes of the December 22nd Vestry Meeting, January 20th Vestry Budget Meeting, January 25th Special Vestry Meeting (immediately after the Annual Meeting), and the February 9th Special Vestry Meeting (during the Vestry Retreat) were approved.

Executive session

Closing prayer