

Church of the Epiphany Vestry Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2009

The Vestry Meeting began with Fr Robin leading the group in prayer promptly at 7PM.

Fr. Robin and Fr Luke attended this meeting. Deacon Dave Welch was excused.

Vestry Members Attendance: Present (P), Excused (E)

Bassett, David	E	Fetzer, Bill	P
Black, Murray	E	Mentzer, Steve	E
Conlon, Tom	P	Morris, Ralph	P
Cummings, Ross	P	Pantzer, Larry	P
Edmunds, Gin	P	Reed, David	P
Ellis, Lisa	P	Welch, Jan	P

Guest: B. Arnold - Initial discussion of an Epiphany Pre-School

- Handbooks and a business summary are available to review the plans for the pre-school at Epiphany
- Will use a learning through play approach, be Christian centered
- Anticipate 20 – 30 students and have cooperative program with parent volunteers
- Plan to start with 1 full-time teacher and perhaps a second teacher; B. Arnold to be the school director
- R. Morris noted that a preference for registration should go to church member, but preference does not need to include a tuition adjustment
- J. Welch noted that noise and other impacts from a preschool for the current church office tenants needs to be a consideration
- Fr. Robin noted that the recent security upgrades complements the proposal for the pre-school. The community has a need for the preschool and it offers an opportunity to introduce the church
- Vestry vote to be taken next month

Treasurer and Finance Committee Report – S. Reiter

- Basic trend of negative cash flow continuing and projected to June 2009
 - Spending is within the budget and pledges are as promised
 - Non-pledged contribution are significantly less than projected
 - Giving increase since January 25

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- S. Reiter briefly discussed mortgage refinancing options based on his review the terms & conditions
 - 6% mortgage due in 2019
 - 1% penalty to refinance
 - May still be advantageous to consider refinancing soon
- An independent audit of finances may be desirable
 - Audit has not been done for some time
 - No pending need for one
 - Cost between \$5000 and \$25000
- R. Morris motioned for the financial report to be accepted and L. Pantzer second the motion, having an unanimous approval

Planning & Vision:

- Church Newcomers – Gin Edmunds and L. Ellis
 - Shortfall exists working with newcomers after a Newcomers luncheon and ambassador work
 - J. Welch recommended establishing a commission with someone in charge to address issues; also have geographical representatives to follow up with newcomers in the respective areas
 - G. Edmunds noted this work could be a Membership Commission that works with the ongoing Small Groups of Epiphany
 - T. Conlon noted that military has a sponsorship program where volunteers establish a relationship with newly assigned people to a new duty location; the approach could be a model for the newcomer effort
 - L. Ellis mentioned that a pamphlet or card, like the Connection Card discussed previously, could be put in the pews
 - Both G. Edmunds and Fr. Robin noted that relationship development is important for new members to get established
 - Fr. Robin noted the issue needs to be a priority and that the Vestry will follow up discussing an approach next month
 - G. Edmunds recommended all member to take and to circulate the Epiphany list of events

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- Continuation of the Simple Church discussion addressed spiritual growth – L. Ellis
 - Fr. Robin noted that growth is in part a result of recognizing member by a relationship, not simply knowing names
 - L. Ellis noted that one-one relationships and interaction are important for growth, as reflected in the characteristics of a four-level model she cited
 - J. Welch reflected on the head, heart and hand progression requires an active involvement. An example of progression is attending a Christian adult education class
 - Fr. Robin stated that the Scriptures cite how the disciple were beyond their comfort zone a lot. There is a certain need to be grounded in the Word to address spiritual growth.
- Recommendation of Robbie Pruitt for Ordination – F. Robin
 - Fr Robin recommended that R. Pruitt, the church leader for youth leader, be authorized to start the discernment process for a pastoral role in youth ministry
 - Robbie has completed 30 hours of study to date. The process will also include a background check and the process will be conducted under ordained supervision
 - Fr Robin made the motion for the discernment process to begin; B. Fetzer second the motion and the Vestry unanimously concurred

Approval of Minutes: Meeting of February 10, 2008 – J. Welch made the motion for to accept the minutes; L. Ellis seconded the motion. The Vestry voted unanimously to do so

Reports:

- Rector's Report (covered during the meeting)
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- Associate Rector's Report – Fr Luke
 - Encourage attendance for this week's Lenten series production, Oh Jonah!
 - Following week the series concludes with a hard hitting drama
- Senior Warden's Report
 - Vestry needs to review cover letter
 - Recovering well according to Fr. Robin
- Junior Warden's Report – R. Morris: Progress for church sign provided

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Upcoming Epiphany Vestry Dates

- Lenten series for the next two Sundays
- Holy Week
 - Wednesday Service starts the Easter preparation
 - Baptisms at Holy Saturday Service, 4 PM
- Christmas in April on Saturday, April 25

Meeting adjourned with a motion from Gin Edmunds and seconded by R. Cummings