

The Church of the Epiphany
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: July 10, 2007

The meeting opened at 7:10 PM with prayer time and a reading from The Present Future on the difference between planning (God's work) and being prepared (our work). In the same vein, Murray recommended "The Heavenly Man" about Brother Yun of China.

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

Black, Murray	P	Pantzer, Larry	P
Cummings, Ross	P	Reed, David	P
Gregg, Ted	P	Reiter, Scott	E
Holmes, Kevin	E	Stromberg, Margaret	P
Morris, Ralph	P	Ticer, John	P
Oliphant, Mark	P	Welch, Jan	P

Also present: Father Robin, Ken Bracy, and Charlie Monroe.

Guest Reports:

1. Bylaws Revision – Ken Bracy.

Murray recommended that we look at what changes were made in January and what is changed in this cycle. We should publish this in early August, giving the congregation time to comment, and plan to adopt the result at the September meeting.

Ken discussed the history of the bylaws, their adoption at a parish meeting, and the relative lack of change until the January revision. The one amendment at the parish meeting required the Vestry to publish the Annual Report in advance of the Annual Meeting to give the congregation the opportunity of insight. Robin asked Ken to merge the original bylaws into the January version.

Murray asked that we look at Luke's proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation, compare with this update for consistency, and vote on an update to the Articles. Larry has action to locate Luke's update and send to Vestry.

Ken will add generic language addressing CANA and ADV, e.g., "Vestry will annually appoint delegates to represent the parish at appropriate governing synods, councils, and conventions."

Ralph expressed concern about the "sole power" sentence in Article V, paragraph A. One goal of this update is to give power back to the congregation. There is a major concern over the part of the statement regarding denominational affiliation.

There was much discussion on the definitions of Member and Eligible Voter, but no specific change was recommended.

The new fiscal year should be reflected in the bylaws, but specific dates should be avoided. There should be an annual meeting and a separate meeting for announcements.

Ken will revise the bylaws based on this discussion and any additional inputs. Vestry members should email suggested changes to Ken@epiphany-herndon.org.

2. Calendar.

Robin will be on vacation at the end of the month.

Committee Reports and Old Business:

3. Minutes – Larry.

The minutes of the June 12 meeting were approved as amended, on a motion by John, seconded by Jan, with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Rector's Report – Robin.

Every ministry should have a replacement head in active discipleship.

Babette is tracking newcomers to assure they are heard, their questions answered. The first year is critical. Robin is taking Bp Bena's advice to be "out front," meeting people at the door at the beginning of the service. One concern is newcomers' never hearing back from the ministries in which they indicate an interest. We need to define follow-up responsibilities. Jan reported that her discussions with newcomers got raves for friendliness and lack of pressure. We need to find out why people don't stay. This is hard because they are not here to ask! Jan asked that every ministry have handouts at the ambassadors table. We should also track who is attending and who is missing. Anyone interested should contact Jan.

5. Wardens' Report – Murray and Ralph.

Murray sent a revised lease agreement giving the option to have CANA restore everything to the original condition. ADV may share some of the CANA space.

Murray reminded outgoing vestry members to take action on the nominating committee.

Ralph found no suggestions in the box for the last two Sundays.

6. Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report – Charlie.

Reference report provided. Attendance has leveled off. First and second quarters of 2007 show a decrease in attendance of 800 communicant per quarter (thirteen weeks) compared to the same quarters in 2006. Pledge is down about 11.5%. On page 2, the solid blue line tracks the same trend. The light blue line with crosshatches (plate plus Great Commission) is slightly above budget. Budget deficit is about \$168,000, made up in Great Commission money for debt service. Cash flow is good.

We were approached by CANA to join their health plan and plan to do so. We are also looking into joining CANA's retirement plan.

We will be switching banks due to logistics. We plan to go with Virginia Commerce Bank, which will permit Sunday deposits.

People who buy items for ministry use (food, etc.) and don't wish to be reimbursed can get a donation letter for tax purposes. Charlie will ask Janice to write a bulletin announcement to convey this to volunteers. They may use the same form but indicate no reimbursement is needed, letter wanted.

On Charlie's recommendation, Larry moved that any income generated through the rental of the Church of the Epiphany's building will be used solely for the support, maintenance, and or debt service of the building. Mark seconded and the motion passed with unanimous voice vote.

New Business

7. Executive Session – David.

The Vestry met briefly in executive session.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM by unanimous consent to Mark's motion and Jan's second, and was followed by an Agape feast.

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Prepared by Larry Pantzer

Version: Approved