

**The Church of the Epiphany
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: August 14, 2007**

The meeting opened at 7 PM with Robin's devotional on Eph 2:12ff, the Trinity, and the People of God, across denominations, cultural differences, etc. How can we reach the Hispanic Community? Could we teach "Christian ESL"? Then followed prayer time and the vestry prayer.

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

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

Also present: Ken Bracy and Betsy Zimmermann.

Reports and Old Business:

1. Membership – Betsy

Betsy distributed the current "Membership Practice at Epiphany" which is based mostly on the practices of the Episcopal Church. According to these practices, names cannot be removed from the roles, although they can be made inactive. Bishop Lee permitted no transfers out to other Anglican churches. Despite this, we have continued to have transfers both ways between the Church of the Epiphany and "friendly" Episcopal churches in the Diocese of Virginia since the split. The definition of membership in the Episcopal Church is more complicated than most other denominations. We are considering having Bishop Bena receive all of us into CANA.

2. IT Questionnaire – Ken.

Ken passed out the draft "Church of the Epiphany Information Technology Survey" and described its objectives. The question regarding use of IT in ministry applies to all uses, not just those currently implemented at the church. He also described the new website that will be implemented in the fall.

3. By-Laws – Ken.

Ken summarized the changes made to date that were primarily word-smithing. Some changes still to be finalized include mandatory retirement age for the Rector, a new fiscal year, petitions by members, and stewardship, requiring the vestry to accept formally any special gift other than financial instruments. The remaining issue needing consensus is membership. Ken passed out another draft of Article III, Membership. Much discussion was devoted to how many levels of membership there should be, with a preference that there be only one, and whether there should be separate requirements for voting membership. Ken's version was generally acceptable, with some contention over whether Confirmation should be required for basic membership, or only for such additional privileges as voting, altar guild, chalice, etc. All agreed that Ken's requirements for eligible voter were appropriate. Ken will put together versions that incorporate these options and send them to us.

4. Minutes – Larry.

The minutes of the July 10 meeting were unanimously accepted as written on a motion by Jan, seconded by Margaret.

5. Treasurer and Finance Committee Report – Ralph.

Ralph discussed the “2007 Giving” graph as wavering around the dotted blue line. The report was unanimously accepted on a motion by John, seconded by Larry.

6. Rector Report – Robin.

Luke visited recently and is doing well. Christopher will be here for a visit around the end of the month. Christina is doing well and has sent sonograms. Current Anglican District of Virginia (ADV) rules permit us four delegates. We can choose these from scratch or start with the slate chosen last year. Robin suggests that we talk this up with the congregation. Jan suggested that at least one member be from the vestry.

7. Warden Report – Ralph.

ADV churches are involved in missions in over 50 countries. The ADV meeting September 28-29 will emphasize mission and minimize constitution. The CANA Convocation will be November 1-3. Both will be at Epiphany.

8. Chancellor Report – David (by phone).

David summarized the recent court decisions, which he characterized as a very positive outcome – “we got the important stuff.” Individuals are no longer part of the lawsuit, by agreement of the parties, at the suggestion of the judge. Individuals could be brought back in if the court determines that they acted in some nefarious way, but that is unlikely. The trustees remain on the suit, only because the court wants to have direct access to the trustees in case they must be ordered to turn over property. The court was not willing to rule on any of the core arguments of the case, contrary to our wish to dismiss some parts. He appeared to be sympathetic to our view of the Virginia Statute as being the determining factor in the case, but was not willing to rule on that at this point. David does not know whether the order implementing this has been finalized, or whether this could lead to an agreed settlement. David will put together a summary Chancellor’s Corner by Friday, 8/17, for the upcoming Epiphany Star.

Committee Reports and New Business

9. Education Committee – Kevin.

Kevin discussed potential changes to the 9:00 hour. A copy of his meeting notes will be filed with this report. Bottom line, all appears to have come together positively. The Men’s group is considering having a course. Scott will start his class on September 23 but start dates for the rest are To Be Determined. A goal is to publish the schedule in time for homecoming. Robbie and Luke need to connect to discuss whether there will be a youth component. Status of Marriage Mentors is also TBD.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM by unanimous consent to Margaret’s motion and Ted’s second, and was followed by an Agape feast.

Vestry Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2007

Prepared by Larry Pantzer

Version: Approved