

**The Church of the Epiphany
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: April 15, 2008**

The meeting opened at 7 PM with prayer time, followed by the vestry prayer.

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

Black, Murray	P	Mentzer, Steve	P
Cummings, Ross	P	Morris, Ralph	P
Edmunds, Gin	P	Pantzer, Larry	P
Ellis, Lisa	P	Reed, David	E
Fetzer, Bill	E	Ticer, John	P
Holmes, Kevin	P	Welch, Jan	E

Also present: Father Robin, Father Luke, Fred Apelquist, and Scott Reiter.

Reports and Old Business:

1. Guest Report, Stewardship – Fred Apelquist

Fred discussed the work and accomplishments of the Stewardship Committee. Fred will give the testimony at the next Sunday. Letters and pledge cards will go out shortly. Robin asked whether we will set a goal (see discussion of Treasurer's Report). Lisa asked that Fred keep good notes for next and subsequent years.

2. Minutes – Larry.

The minutes of the March vestry meeting were approved unanimously as amended on a motion by Steve, seconded by Lisa. The motion for new accounting procedures for designated gifts, undertaken in the interim under the rules for Action without a Meeting, failed and was tabled for discussion at another time.

3. Rector Report – Robin.

Robin had a great time with family in Europe, but "it's great to be back."

Robin talked with Tommy Tarrants, head of the CS Lewis Institute, about leadership style. Robin feels the need to improve his leadership approach as appropriate to the way the Church of the Epiphany has evolved. Tommy recommended Ray Blunt, Washington Institute for Faith, Vocation, and Culture, who will help us with our management and leadership approach. He will donate his time, asking only that we make a donation to a charity of his choice.

Robin met in March with the South Riding Church (Phil Ashey), Christ the Redeemer (Mark Sholander), and Church of the Holy Spirit (Clancy Nixon), asking what we could do to help them. They requested short term mission support, in the form of people who would work with them for a year to help them get things started. They noted that they have been renting space on Friday nights for Prayer and Praise. Robin offered our Sanctuary. CTR is thinking of abandoning their Sunday morning service and moving it to Saturday night. Again, we may be able to help them out. We need to determine a policy on how we respond to such requests, as well as other miscellaneous requests from the community for the use of our facilities. Robin asked that we pray about what this policy should be and which of us as individual members should be part of it.

4. Associate Rector Report – Luke.

Luke expressed his gratitude for the life of Churchill Gibson. Many of the vestry reminisced about their experiences with Churchill as well.

5. Warden Report – Murray and Ralph.

Nothing to add.

6. Treasurer and Finance Committee Report – Scott.

Scott provided and discussed a handout. We spent less than half of our 6-month budget in the first 3 months. Attendance is on the upswing. The Giving chart continues to show “plate” below budget, made up by Great Commission giving. The Net Current Assets chart shows NCA going down to \$400K, but it is currently fairly level. Scott reminded us that Janice is a resource that would be happy to help us understand our budget. Scott’s report was unanimously approved on a motion by John, seconded by Gin.

7. Education – Kevin.

Stephanie Green wishes to have the KidsServe ministry help with additional areas in the church and provided a handout list of examples she has thought of. She and Kevin ask for additional suggestions from us. This ministry is generally self-sustaining. Murray suggested we consider outreach opportunities, possibly the Wings ministry.

8. Budget and Stewardship – Scott and Murray.

See handout. Scott estimated Outreach at \$90K, as there was no other input. This is an increase of nearly \$10K over last year’s spending. Some office computers are getting old. Ralph included contingency money for realignment of some base salaries, where it may be appropriate. The total does NOT include the Legal Fund. Building and Grounds includes some funding to deal with previously deferred maintenance. Scott described the distribution of giving by giving units. Lisa raised the concern that we have been relying on the Great Commission contributions to stay even, commitment to which ends 31 December, halfway through the budget year. Lisa will work with the Robin to craft the letter accordingly to provide a clear message of the need to make up for this.

Committee Reports and New Business

9. New Business, ADV Board – Robin.

The ADV Board will visit our next vestry meeting.

10. Planning & Vision – Steve.

Small Groups. Mark Oliphant is gathering information about what each of the Home Groups is doing. There are 125 Home Group members. Lisa is looking to provide updated Home Group information on the web. We want to get everyone into a small group, including but not limited to Home Groups.

Ministry and Program Assessment. See handout. We need input from the ministry leads, the people who carry the ball day-to-day. Steve is finding it hard to evaluate how things are going; suspicious of those who simply report, “it’s great.” We (vestry) need to be aware of any underlying issues. We should be contacting the ministry leads to get this input. We need to be sure we have proper alignment of who’s accountable for what. Read the handout – it has interesting ideas – and let Steve know what we think. Steve also provided feedback on Kevin’s After Action form, suggesting a change to ask “what can be done better next time.” Kevin says the form is easy to modify (password is Epiphany). Kevin will send an update to Larry for the record and to Lisa for the website.

Evangelism – Gin. Gin described the activities and gifts provided for newcomers at Easter. Gin had a new family and an “old” family over for dinner, which went very well. We should learn lessons from the Healing Ministry (Healing = Evangelism). Ross suggested we have a list of Epiphany families that would host newcomer dinners. Volunteers welcome!

11. Chancellor Report – Dave (By phone).

Nothing new to report since last Sunday's service. The next hearing date is May 28, one day hearing on constitutionality, with a quick decision expected. The next step is in October over property. We've done an effective job of getting the word out to the parish and giving people the opportunity to ask questions. Murray asked whether we've put an article in the Candle summarizing the April 6 report. Dave said Luke's entry in the Candle covered that.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM by unanimous consent to Kevin's motion and Murray's second, and was followed by an Agape feast.

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Prepared by Larry Pantzer

Version: Approved