

**The Church of the Epiphany
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: May 13, 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	E	Pantzer, Larry	P
Ellis, Lisa	P	Reed, David	P
Fetzer, Bill	E	Ticer, John	E
Holmes, Kevin	P	Welch, Jan	P

Also present: Father Robin, Father Luke, Paul Norcini, Scott Reiter, and Charlie Monroe.

Reports and Old Business:

1. Alpha – Paul Norcini

Our next Alpha begins 18 June. Sunday, 18 May is designated Alpha Sunday to kick off the “recruiting period” for Alpha. Paul will be handing out cards at Sunday services with bulletins, promoting attendance at an introductory dinner and movie and hoping people will invite friends. Robin’s sermon will promote Alpha and Mary Kendrick will give a related testimony. Our goal is for everyone in the church to be galvanized behind this. We plan to publish this every way we can: word of mouth, website, signage, etc. Extending a personal invitation and taking someone to the class is best. Paul will check into putting an ad in the Franklin Farm Almanac. Paul will also discuss Alpha at the newcomers’ lunch on 8 June.

2. Minutes – Larry.

The minutes of the 15 April meeting were approved unanimously as written, on a motion by Kevin, seconded by Ross.

3. Rector Report – Robin.

Robin met with Ray Blunt last week. He plans to meet again with Robin and all of the staff on 21 May. He recommended the Vestry read the book “Good to Great” by Jim Collins (36 page handout provided).

4. Associate Rector Report – Luke.

Nothing to report.

5. Chancellor Report – David.

Dave recalled last month’s statement and discussed recent emails. Discovery has begun for the October trial. He described attempt by TEC/DOV to add to original claims. Dave will write a brief article for the Star.

6. Warden Report – Murray and Ralph.

Prayer vigil at Apostles on 16 May, 7:30, on Litigation.

Murray and others have been looking for about two years at the idea of addressing the needs of our widows through the Lay Caring Ministry. A set of strict guidelines has been drafted. We will serve widows only, for now, with Diana Pino leading. She will contact widows personally. John Newton will head up a men’s equivalent ministry, if needed. These will not be advertised and will be kept low key. We want to be sure we can meet these needs before going further.

7. Treasurer and Finance Committee Report – Scott & Charlie.

Scott provided and discussed handouts. Giving is following last year's pattern, with spending falling somewhat below the line. Expenses are well under control, which helps offset giving issues. Net Current Assets (NCA) are falling a bit, down to \$500K. There are 110 pledges so far, totaling \$877,797. There may be about 12 more pledges outstanding. Giving over and above pledges, backed up by NCA, should be more than adequate to cover the planned budget.

Stevie Glor submitted a request to reimburse expenses totaling about \$1,870, dating back to May and June. The Finance Committee declined to approve this, given the age of the request, long after the end of that fiscal year. Instead, the Finance Committee recommended sending \$1,000 to the Glor's in July as a gift from our Seminarian Fund. Murray so moved, Lisa seconded, and the motion passed by voice vote with David Reed and Jan Welch abstaining.

The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved on a motion by Jan, seconded by Dave.

Committee Reports and New Business

8. Sign – Ross and Dave.

Our corner sign has been determined to be on property owned by the Franklin Farm Foundation (FFF). Our installation permit from Fairfax County showed the sign to be constructed on our property. Our as-built drawings show it on our property. In fact, it was installed closer to the intersection, apparently to avoid being blocked by trees on FFF land. FFF wrote us directing that we remove the sign from their property.

Dave reported that Virginia law makes clear that FFF has control of the property and the right to ask us to move the sign. Indeed, FFF has been very gracious in giving us until the end of the year to deal with the problem. The sign cost about \$18,000 and would need to be demolished. Putting it on our property would move it at least 20 feet back from where it is. Dave will try to work with FFF to find a cooperative accommodation.

9. Vestry-Staff Retreat – Lisa.

Lisa and Steve have been praying and discussing the tentative agenda:

- Friday: Dinner, fellowship, hymns
- Institutionalizing our Mission Statement: Teaching on understanding our spiritual gifts; what we can do individually in support of the mission of Church of the Epiphany
- Will draw from a book and associated DVDs; "Your Divine Design" by Chip Ingram
- Our personal "To Be List," and Epiphany's (revisiting our notes from last fall). Jesus calls us to "become"
- Growth Task Force has found some major themes to share
- Fellowship, open workshop, looking for synergy, working with the Body of Christ
- At Lisa's parents' home on Spring Hill Rd, McLean, just off Toll Road, on 6-7 June.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM by unanimous consent to Lisa's motion and Kevin's second, and was followed by an Agape feast.