

Minutes of the St. Michael and All Angels Vestry Meeting
July 17, 2017

Meeting convened at 6:35.

Present: Associate Rector Reverend David Cox; Jr. Warden Bob Carlson; Treasurer Win Zoellner; Secretary Lindsay Mohn; Dahl Metters; David Schlomer; Leta Anderson; Scott Schaefer; Leslie Malle; Dennis Kissinger; Lindsey Hill

Absent: Dr. Warden Marty Pyle; Allie Marquis; Lisa Welker; Gordon Alloway; Margaret Thompson; David Allen

Father Cox led the group in prayer.

Jr. Warden Carlson reported that there are A/C issues in a couple of areas in the building, including the Adult classroom and the kitchen. Parishioners Ron Donnelly and Rich O'Donnell have gotten a group together to help with some minor issues around the campus.

Treasurer Zoellner attended the Financial Committee meeting but did not have the opportunity to provide a printed report to the Vestry. Pledges in June were \$58K vs budgeted \$56K. The Finance Committee is considering how to provide information to the parish. There was discussion about the importance of transparency, but it's not clear how much information is the right amount, and how often it should be provided. Treasurer Zoellner noted that no parishioner had asked him for information over his 3 year tenure. Ms. Anderson asked if we could add attendance information in order to give a broader data set. Father Cox noted that churches are moving away from using 'Average Sunday Attendance' (ASA) as a method of gauging church health. There are numerous measures of engagement that could be shared, but the Vestry does not want to overload people with too much data. Father Cox suggested offering a 'narrative budget' quarterly. It could include the hours parishioners spend participating in a variety of church activities.

Father Cox reported that he has next week off, and that Father Dennis Gilhousen and Father Don Compier will be doing next weekend's services. He is concerned that Parish Administrator Liz Beedle and Youth Minister Emily Burke may take on too much work because they are so willing to help.

Ms. Anderson reported she would attend Wednesday's staff meeting.

Mr. Kissinger remarked that the Bigger Bible School sign-up link on the website was confusing. Father Cox told the group that the fee for the three night program, including dinner, was \$20 per person, with a \$60 maximum for a family.

Ms. Anderson reported on behalf of the Communications Committee. She noted that Mr. Alloway has been doing an excellent job of responding to correspondence from parishioners. Father Cox said that Ian Boyd volunteered to help with posting on various social media sites.

Mr. Metters reported that the Interim Search Committee had interviewed Father Bill Fasel, and that the interview had gone very well. Father Fasel currently serves six parishes as an Interim, but has never been an Interim in a parish of our size. Two more candidates will be interviewed in the near future, likely by way of Skype. Father Cox offered them the office to make their calls from. Father Fasel has a military background. He thinks it is important to involve lay ministry, and is skilled at working with parishes that have issues/problems.

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the July 9th meeting. Ms. Anderson moved to approve them as written. Mr. Schaefer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group discussed the recent All Parish Meeting at which consultant Norm Olson provided some key points he gathered from the Stewardship Survey. It was agreed that the general demeanor of the group was upbeat and forward looking. The introduction of new Children's Ministry Director Betsy Ordonez was done somewhat awkwardly, and it was agreed that a CV and photo should go into the next newsletter.

Mr. Schaefer noted that some parishioners are frustrated with the anticipated length of time of the Interim search process. Father Cox said that Reverend Jim Kitchens, who will be the speaker at the Bigger Bible School will be addressing the process in depth. The book 'Canoeing the Mountains' is recommended reading prior to attending BBS. Father Cox has books available to purchase for \$11.

Father Cox has rewritten the letter that will go to people responding to requests for information about the parish. The Vestry agreed that they did not like the header/logo on the stationery, and intend to redesign it. There was discussion about how to format the letter, and they decided that the format should depend on the method of delivery of the letter. That is, if it is sent by email, it can be less formal, with bullet points, but if sent by regular mail, it might be better to construct it in a more narrative style. Mr. Carlson pointed out that a welcoming letter should be just one part of a welcoming strategy. There are eight areas to respond to on the back of the Visitor Card, and there should be an equal number of Ministries ready to engage individuals who express interest. Ms. Anderson added that we should go back to having a committee to engage new members. She said committee members could act as 'your personal St. Michael's angel', which got an enthusiastic response from the Vestry.

There was a meeting at Trinity, Lawrence last Saturday to engage Clergy and Lay leadership in a conversation about calling the next Bishop to the Diocese. Representatives from all four of the Convocations in the Diocese were present. They responded to a series of six questions designed to stimulate discussion. The Bishop Search Committee will summarize the responses. There are quite a few rural parishes in the Diocese, but also several corporate sized parishes to

consider. Mr. Carlson asked what the anticipated timeline is, and Father Cox said the ideal scenario would be to elect the next Bishop in October or November of 2018, with an installation in early 2019 due to Presiding Bishop Curry's schedule.

Father Cox said there was discussion at the Finance Committee meeting about the amount of contact Jerry Kirkwood receives on his days off. They want people to not just text or email Jerry without first trying to resolve issues without him. Mr. Carlson said he would take this issue to the next Building & Grounds Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Mohn
Clerk of the Vestry