

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MINUTES
September 18, 2018

Fr. Ted called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. *Present:* Rector Ted Gaiser, Senior Warden Donna Miller, Junior Warden Nick Sewall, Treasurer Steve Bonine, Clerk Connie Burt, Deb Bedard, Greg Caron, Reta King, Colleen Stevens, Dave Wetherbee, Lynne Wolfe, and Cindy Young. *Absent:* Dean Batterman. *Guest:* Bob Mansfield

CHECK-IN AND WORSHIP: After a brief check-in, Steve opened the meeting with two prayers from the BCP: “For the Parish” and “For the Poor and Neglected.”

MINUTES FROM THE JULY VESTRY MEETING: A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the July minutes as written.

REPLACING THE BOILER AND UPDATING THE HEATING SYSTEM

Proposal Presentation by Bob Mansfield:

Nancy and Bob called four companies for potential pricing; one declined and three preliminary bids were received. Nancy, Ted, Donna, and Bob decided on Midcoast Energy of Damariscotta, which provided an accurate proposal that was substantially under our estimated cost (i.e., mid \$50s-\$60s K). Bob asked for the Vestry’s authorization to continue working with Midcoast Energy on the proposal to include (1) an oil-fired lead-lag system (which can be converted to natural gas) of two small boilers that automatically alternate when it is cold enough; (2) removal of oil tanks; (3) replacement of the main feed line under the Narthex using the recommended threaded steel pipe; and (4) replacement and addition of a second zone valve with programmable thermostats in the Chapel and Sacristy hallway, which currently is not hooked up to the circulator. Bob will meet with the company on Friday to discuss questions (e.g., Permit needed? Everything up to code?) and have a walkthrough so that the proposal can be finalized within approximately one week. After the proposal is submitted and the contract is ready, the Vestry will vote electronically, likely in the last week of September.

Financial Planning for the Heating System Project:

Steve reported on the Finance Committee’s discussion about financing for the new heating system. Our investments are up \$75,000 so the prudent approach would be to borrow from these funds, to be paid back after a capital campaign. We would also accept gifts designated for the project. In the short term, we could use the equity line to avoid debt and so as not to delay the project. The Vestry is in agreement with the Finance Committee recommendations.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Steve reported that we are “on target” with a deficit lower than expected. The net/net is good and we are cautiously optimistic. There was discussion about whether the Flower Fund should be a line item in next year’s budget. Reta will discuss with Liz and Marcia and report back next month. It was observed that there has not been any consistent fundraising this year, and we considered how do we transition to a new approach. The Vestry received the report with gratitude and thanks to Steve Williams for his input.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE: Dave reported on the work of the committee and distributed a handout with information about financial goals, our blessings, and the campaign strategy. He noted that many parishioners are not yet pledgers. He described how the packet will be updated and the timeline of tasks from late September until the in-gathering on November 11 and follow-up thank yous.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE UPDATE: Lynne reported that invitations have been sent for the third newcomers luncheon scheduled for September 23 and that we are waiting for RSVPs.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: This will be on October 7 at 1 p.m. in the Library Park gazebo. The United Methodist Church will partner with us and donations will be solicited for Dogwill, a Goodwill-type program for dogs established by Carolyn Lockwood. Flyers have been created and are being distributed.

PARISH PICNIC/PARTY PLANNING: Deb reported that she met with Debby Hayden and Amy Rogers to discuss their different visions for a parish picnic. It was agreed that this should be a major event at the Gazebo and therefore will need extensive planning and broadening of the vision, so it will be held next year.

FACILITIES REPORT: Dave distributed a handout that (1) listed four fuel suppliers to be considered once the new heating system has been decided, and (2) compared vendors' proposals for the snowplowing contract. Nick volunteered to be the point of contact for the snowplow guy. **Motion: Give the Facilities Committee authority to negotiate and execute a final contract for snowplowing.** *Passed unanimous.*

ORGAN/CHOIR RELOCATION PROJECT: Fr. Ted described the plan to move the organ and choir to the right side of the church and showed us an enlarged photo of an architect's rendering. The architect's overall estimate (not including the loft) is \$28,000. We already have a restricted gift of \$20,000 and another \$1,000 pledge for this project. The difference could be repaid by fundraising such as a musical program. Dean Batterman has volunteered to be Clerk of the Works. It was agreed that we will communicate this project to the parish by Fr. Ted's announcements at services and display of the architect's rendering in the Narthex. **Motion: Move forward with the choir relocation project, as described, with the expectation of future repayment of funds estimated at \$6K to \$8K.** *Passed with one abstention.*

RECTOR'S TIME

- The Women's Financial Literacy Program will be scheduled for a mid-October date and advertised in the *Times Record*.
- Fr. Ted is inviting a guest speaker in November to make a presentation about the international program, Food for the Poor. The presenter will also give a talk between the services.
- Fr. Ted shared that he has been overwhelmed by pastoral care needs since returning from vacation.
- Fr. Ted expressed that he doesn't believe we have a leadership *deficit* but rather we are experiencing a leadership *transition*. He encouraged the Vestry to think about how we call up leadership, what our expectations are, and to be specific about what we are requesting.
- It was noted that we have been exploring how we engage young families going forward. Fr. Ted asked us to think about his idea of having three worship services: 8, 9:30, and 11 a.m. instead of Children's Church.

NEW BUSINESS: Donna read a note from Stephanie Batterman thanking the Vestry for its support throughout her ordination process.

CLOSING WORSHIP: In closing, Steve read two prayers from the BCP: "Prayer for the Evening" and "Prayer for the Beauty of the Earth."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 16, 2018, at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Burt
Vestry Clerk