

Minutes: Regular Vestry Meeting – July 25, 2006

The Rev. Lawrence called this meeting to order with prayer. He then led the members in discussion of where they are energy-wise, and what our hopes are for the parish this fall. A quorum was present. Excused: D. Baier, B. Fritz, M. Hickey. Absent: L. Benjamin, K. Crabbe. Also attending: Emily Wilmer.

Rev. Lawrence briefed members on a variety of topics:

- His observations at and reflections on the General Convention.
- 'Contemplative Youth Ministry.' 'Contemplative' refers to spiritual development of adult leaders of youth. As we move toward this model of youth ministry, we need experienced guidance to help with long term youth program development. Rev. Lawrence is meeting July 27 with a consultant from Youth Ministry and Spirituality Project, introduced to us by Emily Wilmer, who can help us work through timing and administrative issues. It is likely we will hire someone already familiar with similar youth programs to work a few hours each week as we transition through Emily's departure.
- Our Sanctuary Project's Friday evening 'Center Point' service continues through the summer. A core group of attendees has formed. Jacob Kells has about 15 volunteers who have committed to different tasks needed to support the 'Center Point' service. Our grant request to Trinity Church Wall Street is being developed. Rev. Lawrence will attend 'Greenbelt' in late August. It is the largest Christian arts and music festival in the world, a venue for teaching and discussion around (but not exclusively) the Christian faith, and a showcase for alternative worship. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Greenbelt's patron. At Greenbelt Rev. Lawrence will meet with Trinity Church grant program staff, and strengthen relationships as we look for their approval of our grant request.
- Cynthia Johnson, R.N. and Nurse Practitioner, has been hired as Parish Nurse and health advocate, effective August 1, working 20-25 hours each month. Grant monies and an unsolicited donation are funding this new position, and we may undertake a joint project with Spring Lake Village which would provide additional funding.
- Bob James, our relief sexton, will not return. His health remains fragile. Rev. Lawrence and staff have determined we can no longer hold the position open for him, which we have for two months longer than required. We will now integrate weekend sexton duties and Farlander kitchen tasks, and advertise for his replacement.
- Chuck Ward, our organist at 11:15 service, is retiring. His last service will be September 10. Carol Menke, minister of music for that service, is pursuing a replacement with whom she is familiar.

- Rev. Lawrence advised that climate change is consuming his prayer life, and that he will talk more about this soon.
- Bill Fritz and Rev. Lawrence are developing a process for long range planning for our parish, and expect to introduce it at Lent 2007.

Emily Wilmer noted that in our conversation, the emphasis seems to be shifting from 'children and youth' to 'youth and young adults.' She also reminded there will be an all-parish Information Sunday on September 24.

Approval of the Minutes of Meeting for June 27 – tentatively approved via eMail review -- was tabled until next meeting. [M-Nykamp, 2-Wager, Unan.]

Incarnation's relationship with The Living Room Center, Inc. ["TLR"], is generally guided by a Memorandum of Understanding with TLR's board of directors, which is automatically renewed each January 1 for another year, unless terminated by either party. Rev. Lawrence reported the Memorandum had been amended to allow for termination "with cause," rather than "without cause." This change was requested by a potential donor. Vestry members informally discussed the Memorandum and its termination clause. John Nykamp and Rev. Lawrence will further study the document and discuss at a future vestry meeting.

There is nothing to report on our offer to purchase the vacant lot. Rector's Warden Jennifer Foster has attempted to reach the seller, but her two calls were not returned.

Treasurer John Nykamp presented his financial statements comments. Of note is the year-to-date net deficit in operations, \$17,105 after our allowable transfer in from our endowment funds. There was also a review of investments in Vanguard Funds, prepared by Carl Wiuff. The financial statements and reports were accepted. [M-Nykamp, 2-Wiuff, Unan.]

The meeting adjourned and members went into Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel and administration.

The next scheduled vestry meeting has been moved to August 29, the fifth Tuesday of the month, at 7:30pm.

Prepared August 4, 2006 by Michael Hickey, Clerk.
From notes of meeting taken by Margaret Guilford.

[Posted to website <incarnation-sr.org> at 'Calendar/News' in 'Vestry Minutes.']