

THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH  
Rhinebeck, New York

Vestry Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2011

Present:

Father Richard McKeon  
Joanne Brunson  
Clarence Clark  
Dave Craft, Warden  
Joanne Engle  
Chele Fox  
Ron Hirsch, Warden  
Leanora Kovacs  
Victoria Rivera

Excused:

Robby Long, Excused

Absent:

Kristy Carter  
Heather Cassano

Others Present:

Lorraine Turra, Clerk

**Opening Prayer**

The regular meeting of the Vestry was opened with a prayer by Father Richard at approximately 7:10 p.m.

**Approval of November 8, 2011 Minutes**

MOTION made by Chele Fox, seconded by Joanne Engel to approve the November 8, 2011 minutes, as corrected. VOICE VOTE - ALL IN FAVOR

**Rector's Report**

- Canon Andrew Dietsche was elected Bishop Coadjutor on November 19, 2011 at the Election Convention held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Subject to his election receiving the consent of a majority of diocesan bishops and standing committees, his consecration will take place on Saturday, March 10, 2012.
- The Peter and the Wolf performance on Saturday, November 12, 2011 was fantastic.
- Sinter Klaus - the turn out for the programs on Saturday at Church of the Messiah was wonderful; however, people had to be turned away. Although it was great to have that many people come to Messiah, it was suggested that next year we have a more rigorous participation in this event.
- Services this past weekend were great.
- A memorial communion service for Marjorie Wheeler will be held on Sunday at 2:00 pm.

DRAFT MINUTES

- Job Descriptions: Evaluations were discussed with Ted, Reggie and Su.
- Help is needed in the Food Pantry to help hand out food on December 23, 2011.
- Fr. Richard will work on an agenda for the January meeting.

### **Nominating Committee**

- There is one open slot for the class of 2015 which includes Vicki Figueroa and Joanne Engel and after discussion it was agreed that Ed Doff would be nominated for the open slot (class of 2014) to replace Robby Long.

### **Buildings & Grounds**

- Dave Craft reported that the sidewalk project has been completed and they are still working on the steps and railings. The committee is in the process of hiring a sub contractor to do the work required on the gutters for the Parish Hall and the Church.
- The altar rail has been fixed so that it slides on the bolt correctly and the font area will be disassembled so there will be no step up to the font area.

### **Outreach Committee**

- There is a critical need in terms of non budgetary funds and a back up source of funding needs to be established for discretionary funding needs, similar to the Barnes and Noble fund raiser for the Diocese (wrapping books.)
- An application was received from The Community Coalition for Rhinebeck Youth to approve a \$500 grant (from the remaining balance in the Mad Dash account for 2011) to support a program that would enable a movie to be shown free of charge on January 20, 2011 at the Rhinebeck High School to Red Hook and Rhinebeck parents, teachers and students. The movie is called "Race to Nowhere" and deals with the issue of time and the quality of life for our children and the pressures they are under. Since the request is time sensitive, an email to vestry members to solicit feedback will be sent out as part of an online approval of this grant, depending on action taken by the Outreach Committee at their meeting.

### **Stewardship Committee**

- Clarence Clark has done a great job in coordinating requests for grants and it was suggested that since the parish is responsible for the distribution of the Mad Dash funds, perhaps a description of the program and how requests for funding are determined could be placed in the email announcements.
- The Migrant Outreach Program was very successful and Richard Witt met with the Outreach Committee about a future connection.

- The Christmas Mitten Tree for Poughkeepsie school children was also very successful.
- Stewardship Letter - a draft copy of the letter was forwarded to vestry members and discussion centered around where this could fit into the stewardship mailing, The purpose of the letter is to focus on the aspect of what it means to be a member of Messiah and your relationship to the parish and the community. It was agreed that the letter should be inserted into the stewardship mailing but it should be shorter, perhaps one or two pages. It was also suggested that the letter, written by Doug and Marcia Hamilton, should be placed on the Messiah web site. Fr. Richard pointed out that this letter is so effective since it is written by people already connected to the Church of the Messiah. A paragraph from Fr. Richard regarding the budget will lead off this wonderful and thoughtful letter from the Hamilton's and the pledge cards will also be included in the mailing.
- The pledges should be returned by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 and focus needs to continue on what the Church of Messiah needs are; also a follow up a date should be discussed for a new person to talk to the parishioners about Stewardship since the Stewardship Letter will probably have the biggest impact on new members.

### **Church School Report, Youth Ministry, Formation of Search Committee**

- It was agreed that a committee should be formed to develop a job description for the part time Youth Minister and hopefully have someone hired by the summer to plan for the Fall program to be in place by September. Besides Chele Fox, Joanne Engle and Heather Cassano it was suggested that notice should be placed in the bulletin asking anyone interested in serving on the Committee to submit a written statement explaining their desire to serve and why they feel called to do so.

Ron Hirsch pointed out that this is an important issue for the church and perhaps the search committee could present several candidates to the Vestry and Father Richard for consideration. Leanora Kovacs also noted that Vestry members should have a chance to talk to the candidates and agreed that it is hard to narrow it down to only one candidate. It was also suggested that the job description should be posted on the web site.

### **Advent Lessons & Carols Christmas Schedule**

- There will be no 8:00 am service on Christmas Day (Sunday.) Christmas Eve (Saturday) there will be a 5:00 p.m. Children's Service, 9:30 Music Prelude and 10:00 p.m. Festival Service by Candlelight.
- It is planned to hire a Harpist for Christmas 2012 which will be less expensive than the Brass music.
- Wonder, Love & Praise - 240 copies of the hymnal are required (as many as fit in the pews and copies for the choir) with an additional supply of hymnals available for a donation in memory of someone. This is a 50/50 fund raising event with a matching grant from the Prayer Book Society.
- The copies of Spirit and Song (about 100) will be donated to a Catholic Church.

- Reggie would like a two week introduction to familiarize the parish with the new hymnals.
- Response to Bishop Sisk regarding same sex marriage rite - discussion.

### **Upcoming Dates**

- Hanging of the Greens - Chele Fox asked that all the pews be decorated with flowers.
- Next vestry meeting - January 10, 2012.
- Annual Meeting (pot luck) - January 22, 2012.
- Confirmation - March 11, 2012 (Bishop Elect Andrew Dietsche)

### **Old Business**

- Committee was formed to discuss ideas for re-decorating Donegan Hall: Joanne Engle, Joanne Brunson, Chele Fox, Leanora Kovacs and Clarence Clark.
- Lighting of the Tiffany Window. The lights will be used in the mornings only if the morning lighting is not conducive to viewing the window.
- Annual Meeting - Fr. Richard had a meeting with Pam Wright; reports need to be submitted the beginning of January and sent out to the congregation at least a week in advance.

### **New Business**

- Where are we going to go in the next year? Youth Minister - Outreach? Since the Annual Budget needs to be received and approved by vestry it should actually be passed in November or December. Vestry needs to look at the 2012 proposed budget before the Annual Meeting; therefore, Francois Weigel will need to present the budget at the January 10, 2012 vestry meeting.
- Confirmation class - there is a large young class to be received into the church.
- Attendance at the 8:00 am service is 20 - 25% of the members. Low attendance at the 10:00 am service is approximately 160 and high is 180.
- Father Richard is having only one forum between the two services.

## **Closing Prayer**

Since there was no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Father Richard at approximately 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Turra  
Clerk of the Vestry

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**NEXT VESTRY MEETING - TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012 AT  
7:00 PM**