

THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH
Rhinebeck, New York

Vestry Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2011

Present:

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

Excused:

Robby Long

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 October 18, 2011 Minutes

MOTION made by Chele Fox, seconded by Joanne Engel to approve the October 18, 2011 minutes. VOICE VOTE - ALL IN FAVOR

Rector's Report

- Father Richard noted that he will be away for Thanksgiving and Fred Rogan will be conducting the service.
- The community hymn sing organized by the Third Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 23rd did not have good attendance. Messiah's dollars and efforts need to be focused on the people from this parish.
- Sunday, November 27th - lighting of the Christmas tree.
- Father Richard will talk to Reggie about having only a 10:00 am Sunday service on Christmas Day.
- Diocese Convention - scheduled for October 29, 2011 has been postponed to November 19, 2011; Ron Hirsch is not able to attend as previously planned.

- Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon there will be a discussion with Fr. Mayberry in Donegan Hall regarding a process as to how to incorporate new members into Messiah - it is a two hour presentation

Nominating Committee

- There is one open slot for the class of 2015 which includes Vicki Figueroa and Joanne Engel; all current members want to run again. Ron Hirsch will serve his final term as Warden (2- year term.) and Heather Cassano could run for her first new term. Also, someone needs to be nominated to replace Robby Long .

Buildings & Grounds

- Dave Craft reported that they are working on the sidewalk project and steps are in the process - trying to get the fence in place. The front doors will be varnished and a light provided for the basement - replaced the hot water heater with a different type so there is now hot water in the sacristy. The top roof gutters are clogged and a contract is required to clean them four times a year. Railings are needed on the front steps as well as a second hand rail on the other side of the sacristy entrance/exit.

Mad Dash

- Clarence Clark reported that there is nothing new to report - still waiting for some final sponsorship monies before the final figures can be tabulated. Saturday at 6:30 p.m. there will be a celebration party at the Clark's.
- Leadership for next year's Mad Dash needs to be discussed.

Stewardship

- Three Stewardship Forums have been held and at the Sunday, November 20, 2011 forum there were approximately twenty parishioners at the Rectory. A number of people want to increase their pledging.
- The estimate for this years stewardship is \$165,000 to \$200,000 in pledging with the goal of not using that income to balance the budget. The basis of the stewardship letter to be mailed is to ask the parish what Messiah means to them. There needs to be 100% pledging from the parish regardless of the amount and the November 20th sermon will focus on stewardship with a letter to be sent out as a follow up.

Youth Minister

- New budgetary needs will be required for this position with a goal of \$30,000. This would be a half time position (20 hours/week) and a search committee needs to be formed to seek the right candidate and create a written job description for this position.

Housing Allowance

- In order to comply with IRS regulations a dollar designation in support of the rectory must be established. The amount requested for 2012 will be the same as this year, \$28,999.

MOTION made by Leanora Kovacs, seconded by Chele Fox to approve the 2012 housing allowance in the amount of \$28,999 **VOICE VOTE - ALL IN FAVOR**

Acolyte Training

- Chele Fox reported that she has five new acolytes and a group of six really good acolytes that she would like to serve for the confirmation ceremony with the Bishop in attendance. The older acolytes are always willing to fill in when necessary.

Upcoming Dates

- Peter & the Wolf - Saturday, November 12, 2011
- Rhinebeck Historical Society Talk - 7:30 pm Friday, November 18, 2011
- Sinter Klaus - Saturday, December 3, 2011 (Father Richard - blessing of the Raven)
- Advent Lessons & Carols - Sunday, December 11, 2011 4:00 p.m.
(followed by a pot luck supper and entertainment)
- Sunday School Christmas Pageant - Sunday, December 18, 2011
(no family service in December)
- Christmas Eve Services:
5:00 p.m. - Children's Service
9:30 p.m. - Music Prelude
10:00 p.m. - Festival Celebration by Candlelight
- Christmas Day Service:
10:00 a.m. (no 8:00 a.m. service)

Communication

- Each church group in the parish has been asked to list any suppliers they are using
(email updates are appreciated)
- Suggestions to advertise Messiah events in the Northern Dutchess Newspaper and on PANDA so that Episcopal churches in the area can be aware of the dates and times.

Old Business

- Advent - bring up the old wreath with battery candles.
- Signage - discussion meeting to look at the old code and the changes that need to be included in the new code. Messiah is asking for a variance for temporary

signage according to the guidelines of the Village of Rhinebeck. Messiah already has two signs - the Episcopal Church welcome sign as you enter the village and the permanent sign outside the church. The current A-frame signs are obsolete and in order to conform to the Code temporary signs are allowed within reason; two-sided signs.

- Wonder, Love and Praise - donation from the ECW to buy new hymnals and raising \$3,000 (fund raiser) with matching grant from the Prayer Book Society (Bishop Sisk will make a recommendation) and maybe we can have them in time for Christmas.
- Special thanks to Vicki Figueroa for a successful Sister City Dance and to Lori Craft for her work to raise funds by participation in the Crop Walk. A special written thank you to Pam Wright with special gratitude in recognition of her work with the young women in the parish - a formal resolution to be passed by Vestry.

New Business

- There was a positive response to the music provided by the children at the family service. Heather Cassano suggested music could be provided at the Saturday night Christmas Eve Service by the youth instrumentalists.
- Membership at the 8:00 am service has been increasing.
- The Wednesday evening Book Group on Spirituality (open to the community and members of Messiah) meets from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. in Donegan Hall.
- Bible Study group meets on Thursday mornings and an adult Confirmation class group meets Sundays after church - from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. (maybe the new Bishop of New York will have been elected and will attend Messiah for Confirmation on Sunday, January 8, 2012.)
- New Bishop Coadjutor installation March 11, 2012. Nominating speeches from the floor in support of Andy Dietsche.
- The first formal pastoral request for a same sex marriage ceremony at Messiah has been received. Question - when will that begin? **Note: December Agenda** - Same Sex Marriages and a copy of the letter received from bishop Sisk regarding that subject.
- Pam Wright to touch on "Leadership" at the Annual Meeting. Written reports are to be submitted in advance of the Annual Meeting so they can be published. Elections - looking at what vestry should be doing vs. what has always been done in the parish.
- Messiah Matters: Journal of the Parish - Prayers - Poetry - maybe publish once a year; perhaps something to be handed out at the Annual Meeting.
- Agenda for the Annual Meeting: Lenora Kovacs and Heather Cassano

Closing Prayer

Since there was no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Father Richard at approximately 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Turra
Clerk of the Vestry

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**NEXT VESTRY MEETING - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011 AT
7:00 PM**