

Calvary Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2013
Crook Auditorium

Vestry Present: Alex Wise, Hall Gardner, Rose Johnston, Bob O'Connor, James Dowd, Charles Shipp, Clay Woemmel, Brett Norman, Alison Boeving, Mike Nelson, Allison Parker, Drew Smith, Leslie Smith, Sam Cole, John Pruett

Others Present: Rev. Chris Girata, Katie Owen, Jan Elam, Terre Sullivant

Call to Order: Rev. Chris Girata called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Chris Girata opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the March 19 vestry meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Katie Owen presented the financials for January and February and stated that the financials are not yet up-to-date but will be by the next meeting. Finances are on line with the budget, even with the inclusion of some recent buildings and grounds work. The treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Working Group Reports:

Binding Us Together: Alex Wise, team leader, reported that the committee is working on the concept of small groups. There is good coordination between the adult Christian formation group and children and youth group. A goal is for Christian formation programs to be planned a year in advance. The committee is looking for good leaders for small groups. He thanked his committee for their good work. A discussion among vestry members followed about the need for excellent teachers/lecturers for adult formation classes, as well as the importance of small groups. It was agreed that both are necessary as long as an intentional theme is followed.

Doing and Supporting: Team leader Bob O'Connor reported that his committee met to evaluate and examine the future of the Lenten Preaching Series. A detailed report was produced and is attached. The LPS will go forward with some sharpening of focus and a reduced budget. A discussion among vestry members followed about the primary audience for the LPS, speaker selection and coordination with other community groups.

Using Our Inheritance: Hall Gardner, team leader, reported that the buildings and grounds committee has compiled a priority list of things that need repair. The total cost will be approximately \$500,000, with the air conditioning system requiring one-half that amount. The system will be repaired in four phases. The hiring of a part-time accountant has been put on hold in order to determine if there is a real need for it. Dee Wallace is cleaning up the financials so that we will have clean books going forward and numbers we can count on. Dee is also tasked with writing procedures and processes and with assessing the financial side of our ACS system (church database system).

Strategic Planning Report: Jan Elam reported that her committee is working on concrete recommendations pertaining to the four value groups previously identified by the committee. The committee is engaging stakeholders and those knowledgeable of these four groups to obtain feedback. They will speak to over 100 people, summarize the information on the strategic plan website and come up with an action list. 1) Mission: identify the need for a focused plan on how to respond to God's call. We must grow our membership or shrink our budget. 2) Communications: need to communicate effectively, increase connectivity; modality depends on what group is being addressed. 3) Outreach: the role of clergy and lay in outreach; define the focus of outreach. 4) Governance: the need for relationships, trust, transparency, evaluation and community. The committee is reaching out to stakeholders to gather their opinions, which will provide the vestry a lot of information about Calvary's parishioners.

Clergy Reports:

Rev. Eyleen Farmer: Eyleen was out of town but submitted a written report.

Rev. Ben Robertson: Ben was not present but submitted a written report.

Rev. Chris Girata: Chris reported on recent personnel changes and the workings of a new personnel committee. The staff is being streamlined and roles are being clarified. There will be more work done by fewer people; everyone has a full-time job. The position of office operations administrator has been eliminated and those duties parceled out to other staff. There has been a reduction in hours for some positions. All changes are made to structurally support what is important to our parish. There will be an article in the *Chronicle* on this subject, as well as an open forum in May. Hilary Chipley has been named director of children and youth ministries. Ellen Coleman will divide her time between marketing and children and youth. A permanent choirmaster should be hired within six weeks.

Chris announced that in the first quarter of this year, attendance at Calvary was the highest it has been in five years.

Warden Report:

Alex Wise: Alex expressed his gratitude to the working groups of the vestry and commented on the increase in intentionality and coherence of the vestry's work.

Old Business: Brett Norman repeated his request for a presentation by the endowment committee to the vestry. Rose Johnston stated that Giles Coors was happy to make the presentation and would do so in the near future.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terre Sullivant, Clerk

Attachment

April 15, 2013

From: **“Doing and Supporting Ministry” Workgroup (Bob, Clay, Mike, Rose and Sam)**

To: **The Vestry**

Subject: Recommendations on Lenten Preaching Series 2014

Our workgroup met with Chris and Eyleen yesterday to review the Lenten Preaching Series (LPS). We recommend modifications to this ministry in 2014. Chris and Eyleen are in agreement. We will review our recommendations with you on Tuesday night, April 16th. Key points are as follows:

1. We agreed the focus is on preaching. LPS is not a lecture series. The purpose of the LPS is the purpose of Calvary Church: to set our hearts on fire to be the body of Christ in Memphis.
2. We agreed that the primary target audience for the LPS 2014 and beyond is Calvary parishioners and, especially, potential Calvary parishioners. All people of faith are an important secondary target.
3. We will adapt the LPS execution accordingly:
 - a. We will build on the Wednesday night Preaching and Waffle Shop success in 2013
 - b. Monday speakers must be a factor during regularly scheduled worship and education at Calvary on the Sunday before
 - c. We will use the recorded sermons to fashion a class at Calvary for the summer of 2014
 - d. We will continue to improve marketing of the series
 - e. We will build on our 2013 efforts to simulcast the sermons online and have them available for later viewing
4. 2014 LPS budget will be a bit below the 2012 amount. Sponsorship money obtained for LPS 2014 may be used to supplement that. We will be in a stronger position this year to negotiate with sponsors for more support.

5. We will spend more time recruiting local or regional preachers of great power. In 2013, for example, Andy Andrews and Micah Greenstein both drew much better than our most expensive out-of-towners.
6. Concerning out-of town speakers, we will focus on those that give Calvary a better return. Imam Feisal, for example, our most expensive speaker overall, was great for Rhodes but was not well attended at Calvary. Marcus Borg does better for Calvary.
7. We will work up to two years out, so we can schedule some of the speakers we want.
8. We agreed that the LPS and Eyleen will require about 440 hours of administrative support in 2013/2014. Chris said he felt this would not require any new hiring.
9. We agreed that Calvary clergy and, at their discretion, invited parishioners should comprise the organizing committee.

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