

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Windsor, Connecticut

November 14, 2017

Call to Order

Attendance

Present: Fr. Chip, Deb McGuigan, Connie Hegarty, Scott Sanislo, Marcia Hinckley, Larry Young, Max Kuziak, Ken Roach, Chuck Drake, Fred McLeod, Ian Rickard, Allison Kelly, and JoAnne McLeod.

Absent: Jan Lawlor and Jane Cimbak, Deacon Denise, and Deb Hutchinson.

Guest: Paul Senk

1. **Opening Prayers**

The November 14, 2017 Vestry Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by The Reverend Harry (Chip) Elliott with an Opening Prayer.

2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

There was one addition to the agenda:

7. e. Nominating Committee

3. **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made to accept the corrected October 19, 2017 vestry minutes as written and it passed unanimously.

4. **Wardens' Report**

Senior Warden Ian Rickard noted that during the October vestry meeting, he had agreed to write a letter to the Diocese in response to their letter to Grace Church dated September 28, 2017. The vestry asked Ian to highlight the expanded outreach taking place at the church and the strides taken to increase our pledge amount to the Diocese. Ian stated that upon further reflection and after consultations with Father Chip, Max Kuziak and Deb McGuigan, he had decided to refrain from writing the letter. A discussion took place regarding Ian's decision. Fred McLeod made a motion that the vestry take no further action regarding the letter to the Diocese. The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

Ian also noted that he and his wife, Linda Rickard, have been the Church's representatives at Seabury and that they had attended their Annual Meetings for several years. Ian stated that at the last meeting, new by-laws were distributed, voted on and passed. Now, instead of Seabury being owned by all the Episcopal parishes, it is owned solely by the Episcopal Diocese of CT and representatives of the parishes will not be allowed to vote. All decisions will be made by the Bishop. There will be a Committee on Religion and parish representatives will be invited to attend at the discretion of the Bishop. A lively discussion took place regarding the leadership changes at Seabury.

Junior Warden Deb McGuigan stated that she had requested updates from committee members. ECW president Joanne Roach reported that the annual pot luck lunch will take place after the

December 3rd Lessons and Carols service. A sign-up sheet will be in the Lower Parish Hall. The ECW bake sale will take place on December 17th. The ECW has donated \$400 for the Breast Cancer Patient Bags which will be distributed.

5. Committee Reports as Needed

a. Building and Grounds

Fred McLeod stated that a member of the congregation had suggested having a leaf raking party. Father Chip reported that sexton Fran Mynahan had just completed the job that day. Deb McGuigan suggested that, going forward, Windsor High School students might be asked to rake as a part of their public service credits. Chuck Drake also offered to rake in the future once his responsibilities at the sugar shack were complete. Fred also mentioned that the snow removal responsibilities had been removed from the sexton's duties. Father Chip offered to check with several people regarding snow removal. Chuck Drake suggested that during wet and/or snowy weather a dry mop could be used, or a rug laid down in the Narthex to prevent slipping accidents due to slippery aisles.

b. Stewardship

Connie Hegarty began her report by thanking Tom Woodruff for his years heading the stewardship campaign. She distributed a report about the status of the 2017 campaign. So far, of the 104 pledge cards distributed on Oct. 1st, 54 have been returned and 50 have yet to be returned. As of Nov. 14th, the total pledged amount is \$159,201. Connie is hopeful that the total pledge amount will slightly exceed last year's pledge. Personalized emails asking for cards to be returned will be sent out on Nov. 19th. A reminder will also be placed in the December Chronicle and Sunday bulletins. A Thanksgiving or Celebration Sunday will take place on Advent 3 (Dec. 17th). A reminder email will be sent to folks at a later date reminding them about unfulfilled 2017 pledges. The vestry gave Connie a round of applause for her hard work and dedication to the stewardship campaign.

6. Financial Reports

a. 2018 Budget

Treasurer Larry Young stated that the 2018 budget will not be made until the final numbers are available from the stewardship campaign. He distributed a transaction summary and cash allocation by fund report for October 2017 and a summary on the revenues and expenditures by fund through Oct. 2017. Larry stated that we are current with all our bills. He discussed our various funds and their balances. Larry noted that we are a little behind on our projected rental income; he felt that we may have overestimated the rental time of the church. Larry reported that our expenses are a little high due to utilities. Our projected excess is not as high as we had thought. Connie Hegarty asked if line items will be added to the 2018 budget for Music and the Church School. Larry stated that they have been added. Ian Rickard stated that when the final books have closed on the Cool Kids Clothes store, he predicts an excess of \$300-400 which will be generously donated to the Church School. Connie Hegarty asked a question regarding our endowment and Father Chip responded that Grace Church does not have one.

b. What to do with the Tuttle House Funds

Father Chip stated that a discussion of these funds will be delayed.

7. Old Business

a. Tuttle House

Father Chip reported that the Tuttle House Committee met that day with representatives from Chrysalis. A report was given to the committee regarding progress on the plan of action that had been created in October. The monthly meetings with Chrysalis will continue. Paul Senk, a representative of the Tuttle House lease committee, reported that the lease committee agreed that, going forward, Chrysalis should be responsible for any repairs to the Tuttle House caused by tenant damage. Father Chip asked Paul to compose a letter to Chrysalis stating this position.

b. Grant

Marcia Hinckley reported that the CT Trust for Historic Preservation is hoping to award their grants in the very near future. We still don't know if this will be a source of income for the roof project. Marcia suggested that, in the future, different sources of financing should be considered.

c. Nightmare on Broad Street

Deb McGuigan reported that 5016 pieces of candy were distributed during the 2017 Halloween event. Children and parents came into the front doors of the church and exited through bell tower doors. Participants enjoyed seeing our church and ringing the bells. Deb reported that many positive comments were made about the beauty of our church. Deb also thanked Father Chip and Connie Hegarty for the background music. The vestry gave Deb a round of applause in thanks for her hard work making this a fun event for Windsor children.

d. Amplifier/Speakers

Father Chip reported that the amplifiers and speakers will be installed on Monday, Nov. 20th. Mark Child has been involved in the plan for the sound system.

e. Nominating Committee

The committee did not have a report for this meeting.

8. New Business

a. Discussion: Security? Additional cameras/security for Church School area?

Father Chip stated that safety concerns had developed after the massacre in Texas. A discussion took place regarding the need for added security and the forms that protection would take. Father Chip stated that he will organize a committee to develop a comprehensive plan. The committee will report to the vestry at the December meeting.

b. Evacuation plan?

It was decided that any evacuation plan would be a part of the security committee's report in December.

c. Church Replicas?

Father Chip stated that he would like small wooden replicas of Grace Church that could be given during special presentations. Marcia Hinckley offered to contact a local artist regarding making the replicas.

d. A Surprise!

Max Kuziak is a member of Windsor's Human Relations Committee. This committee gives annual Bridge Builders awards for people who have positively impacted Windsor. Max nominated Father Chip and his nominating letter stressed Father Chip's role as a leader, a coach and a positive force for Grace Church and the surrounding community. Max announced that Father Chip will be given the Bridge Builder award on Thursday, Nov. 30th in a ceremony at the Town Hall. The vestry thanked Max for taking the time to nominate Father Chip. The vestry also gave Father Chip a cheer and round of applause for winning this well-deserved award. We are proud of our Father Chip!!

9. Questions and/or Comments

- Deb McGuigan reported that Muff Fowler expressed concerns about the few volunteers doing pastoral care visits. Muff has been trying to keep up but many folks are not being visited. Father Chip stated that he and Deacon Denise are working on changing the role of the visitors from volunteers to licensed lay Eucharistic visitors. They feel that this will give more latitude to the visitors and change the volunteer base.
- Ken Roach noted that today (Nov. 14th) is the anniversary of the consecration of Samuel Seabury, the first Bishop of CT outside of Great Britain.

- Chuck Drake reported that the two donated trees have been planted and seem to be doing well. The vestry gave Chuck a round of applause in thanks for delivering the trees, planting them and taking care of their watering.

10. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

With no further business before the vestry, Father Chip made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried, and Father Chip led the vestry saying the closing prayer.

JoAnne McLeod, Clerk

Attachments: Stewardship Report, Financial Statements (2).