

**Minutes from a meeting of the  
Bishop's Committee of the  
Church of St. Benedict  
Monday, December 11, 2006**

Present: Vicar Catharine Phillips, Senior Warden Roger Ostrovecky, Junior Warden Mark Wright, Treasurer Peg Bauman, and BC members John Gush, Phil Bauman, Christine Billone, Esther Simonson, and Theresa O'Neil

Absent: BC Members Barry Conlin and Lilaine Valero, Clerk Mary Sanborn

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:40 p.m.

- A. Minutes of the last meeting  
A motion was made by Roger and seconded by Theresa to accept the minutes of the last meeting with corrections. All approved.
- B. Election of Interim BC Member  
Esther Simonson was nominated to fill the BC spot left vacant by Fran Wright. Roger made a motion to appoint Esther as a BC member for the next two meetings (until elections). The motion was seconded by John and approved by all.
- C. Finances  
John made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Phil and approved by all.

Peg noted that she has informed the auditor that the audit must be completed by end of year or we will not pay them.

John Gush reported that pledges for the Stewardship campaign totaled \$112,736 for 34 pledging units. This is down considerably from last year's total of approximately \$150,000 from 52 pledging units. However, it was noted that the total was high for the number of pledging units. John also noted that based on last year, additional pledges may continue to come in through January. He will analyze who still may be pledging. There was a discussion on whether the low-key approach (without outside marketing materials) was effective. Good feedback was received on the speeches members gave about St. Benedict.

- D. Team reports (attached)
- E. Bishop's Committee Nominations  
Three seats will be open at the end of this year, with the terms of Lilaine, Roger, and Esther completing. Catharine and Mark agreed they would like to know who will be 'running' before year end. The BC agreed that Carol Shelton and Dave Smith would make excellent BC members. Mark agreed to talk with Carol. Esther

will talk with Dave. It was also noted that Cindy Johnson inquired about joining the BC, but her work schedule will not allow it. The BC noted that Cindy should be considered for a leadership position in the congregation that will work with her schedule.

F. Annual Meeting, 2007 Planning meeting

The annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 4. The BC Planning meeting is scheduled to take place over two evenings: Thursday, February 8 and Friday, February 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

G. Congregational Sharing Update

Barry, Christine, Roger, Theresa, and Mark met with Catharine on December 3 to discuss the key findings from the congregational sharing sessions and decide on an action plan. The team agreed to choose three areas for the BC to focus on to ensure progress. As each of these areas is resolved, another area may be selected for focus by the BC. Each area will have BC members assigned as focal points. The three areas selected were:

1. Lost members. The team agreed that we don't need additional feedback from members who have left, as we have comprehensive feedback. However, we do want to reach out as appropriate to members who have left. John Gush agreed to make a "miss you box," which was suggested by Jill Wright. Members may place a note in the box if they notice that someone has been gone for a while. Catharine and the BC will ensure that someone follows up with the missed person and will encourage the person who submitted the name to follow up as well. A key objective is to make every member feel responsible for each other—to make sure this is not "just" the priest and the BC, though we will take a leadership position. Theresa and John are focal points.

Catharine discussed members who have left, their reasons, and whether they have been responsive to inquiries. She also submitted a report on new/returning members.

2. Christian Education, including Youth. Barry and Roger have the lead on this one.
3. Worship, especially Sermons and Worship space. Catharine asked that she continue to receive ongoing feedback on sermons, particularly specific feedback on what people like. Suggestions were made on how to make the worship space more welcoming and intimate. This team will also incorporate the group John Gush is leading around "beautification." Several members have asked to be part of this team, which is led by Mark and John and also includes Dave Smith, Alice Henry, Martha Croll, Linda Scheets, and Grace Conlin.

Catharine, Barry, Christine, Roger, Theresa, Mark will meet again in January to discuss progress and determine next steps for the three focal areas. A date for this meeting has not yet been set.

- H. Update on Advent Program  
It was noted that the Advent program was going well, with good participation and energy.
- I. Epiphany Program  
In addition to the team notes, it was noted that Leticia has selected a book for an Epiphany Book Club.
- J. Blue Christmas  
It was noted that next it would be desirable to reach out to funeral homes, hospices, etc.
- K. Meeting Process  
The BC reviewed the meeting process. The B.C. will continue to send out committee reports in advance. The B.C. requests that it receive the minutes (by e-mail) from the last meeting before the next meeting. The agenda process will be continued: B.C. members can send requests for agenda items during the week before the next B.C. meeting to Mark/Catharine. The agenda will be sent to B.C. members in advance of the meeting.

Roger moved that the meeting be adjourned and Mark seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06.