

Church of St. Benedict
Minutes of Bishop's Committee Meeting
Held on
Monday, March 12th

Present: Vicar Catharine Phillips, Sr. Warden Mark Wright, Jr. Warden Theresa O'Neill, Treasurer Peg Bauman, BC Members Phil Bauman, Christine Billone, Esther Simonson, and Laura Ostrovecky, Clerk Stacey Johnson

Absent: John Gush, Barry Conlin, Dave Smith

Opening: The meeting opened at 7:10 PM with a prayer from Catharine Phillips.

Approval of Minutes: Mark asked for approval on BC meeting minutes for meeting held on Feb. 8-9. Christine (who had taken the minutes) noted that a correction needed to be made under Resources. Mark made the correction of adding Revenue Enhancements to priorities in 2007 under Resources. Phil made a motion to accept meeting minutes and Laura seconded the motion.

Mark asked for approval on meeting minutes for the Annual Meeting held on Feb. 4th. Catharine noted a spelling correction on acknowledgment. Laura made a motion to accept. Phil seconded the motion.

Note: Stacey Johnson is the new clerk.

Finance Report:

Peg Bauman passed out the YTD financials. Mark requested to talk about January. Peg stated that pledges are good and members need to continue to maintain pledge levels. 44 people attended the 10:30 service on the 3/11/07. She also stated that people are paying their capital pledges. Catharine wants to see more people in church. Peg noted that the pledges paid the mortgage for Jan and Feb; no money was taken out of the building fund. Mark asked if the Oak Brook account was closed and Peg confirmed that it was. Laura asked if there were any plans for the Phebe Swinehart fund. The answer was told not yet. It was noted that Catharine Phillips did not receive her cost of living increase. Peg stated that she would notify the bookkeeper to make the correction.

Mark asked for an update on the status of the audit. Peg stated that the partner who needs to sign the audit has been asking questions about the mortgage, specifically how the original mortgage ended and the new one started. No other questions regarding audit.

Motion made by Christine Billone to place January budget on file for audit. Seconded by Phil Bauman and accepted by all present. Motion made by Laura Ostrovecky to place February budget on file for audit. Seconded by Phil Bauman and accepted by all present.

Resources:

1. Keys – Mark noted that everyone has a key.
2. Tour of Church – Mark suggested that if needed, we should do it at the end of the meeting. The group decided it was not necessary.
3. Lawn Service – A contract was signed for \$100/mow. To save money, we will try to go every other week around late July timeframe.

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4. Parish Secretary – Dawn Morfoot was hired based on a lead from Laura and Roger Ostrovecky.
5. Letters of Agreement – Dawn (secretary) has signed hers. Martha and Victoria are currently reviewing their letters and we are waiting for signatures.
6. Copier/Computer Status – Catharine stated that it doesn't work, a repairman is needed and Dawn will coordinate scheduling the repair.

Christian Education:

1. What is the status of teacher training (keeping God's people safe)? Laura said that Beth needs to initiate this and Laura will find out if it has been done by Esther.
2. General – Theresa to supply temporary box
3. Status of Attendance – Laura stated that attendance had dropped off. She emailed parents and got two more families. She noted that a personal touch can help. The question was raised on why attendance was dropping. It was noted that all the area school districts had long weekends recently. Christine noted that when you only have 3 kids per class it's hard to track what really causes absences. A suggestion was made to send We Miss You cards to the kids themselves who have not recently attended. Esther will look into getting cards and then the individual teachers will send the cards as needed.
4. Curriculum – a dialogue has been started between Beth and Esther.
5. High School and Youth Program – nothing yet. Esther will contact Barry and Roger to speak about their ideas at the next BC monthly meeting.
6. Correction needs to be made to the bulletin – Child Care is only offered during the 10:30 service not in between the two services as currently stated.
7. Adult Education – Has been going well for special programs but good attendance takes effort. Christine noted that we need a vision for adult education between the special program seasons (advent and lent). A suggestion was made for forum-based teaching around certain topics. It seems that people like to discuss concrete ideas rather than general open-ended topics. Theresa has ideas for setting up Pentecost season.

Spiritual Life and Worship:

1. Healing Prayer Team – Catharine said that two people are interested in joining the team but there have been some logistical issues in coordinating schedules for training. The training will start after Easter.
2. Worship Space Team – The group will focus on colors for the season after Pentecost. They didn't come together quickly enough for Easter. Mark will contact Alice. Everyone needs to think about the worship space configuration between now and the next BC meeting. It was suggested to ask the congregation for their input. Esther will create a survey with Stacey's assistance. The survey will be included in the bulletin on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday to get as much feedback as possible. Then the worship space team will have a meeting with all interested members the Sunday after Easter to discuss feedback.
3. Outreach – Mark reported the updates provided by Dave who was not present. The Men's Group pancake supper raised \$370 for Heifer International. Mark asked if the check had been sent. Peg reported no but that it would go out this

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week. A coat drive has been suggested for Palm Sunday. They are looking for a coordinator and suggestions for an organization to receive the coats. The group decided that they would prefer a local charity. Some possible suggestions include the Hesed House in Aurora or Cathedral Shelter. Dave will find a coordinator. Dave has confirmed with the Park District that the Paintball Tournament is scheduled for June 20-24. He requests that everyone keep the dates open for parking. Dave will be in charge and will discuss ways to avoid past problems.

4. Possibility of combining services – Christine expressed her feelings that it would provide an advantage for Adult & Christian Ed. One idea offered was to combine brunch and Christian Ed. The question was asked if a service should occur first or Christian Ed first. A notice will be placed in the April Abbey regarding the potential for combining services. Then a survey will follow in May and a meeting will be held on May 20th for discussion. Phil offered to put the surveys online.
5. Emily and Esther's trip to Africa – Laura asked if Outreach could support their efforts. Esther said that they are taking donated items as well as money. She said that each person takes two suitcases and one is strictly for donations. Esther will get a list together of requested items. Mark wants the Finance Committee to take a look at this possible donation in April. Esther will bring more information. Esther provided a letter of request written by Emily that Phil will email or post.
6. Phil Fackler recommendation for Candidacy – Catharine said that Phil needs to be endorsed. Catharine read the endorsement and passed around for all present to sign.
7. Callie Swanlund – Catharine stated that Callie will also need to be approved for candidacy. Catharine will get the paperwork from the California discernment committee however this will not occur until August. Catharine asked if the Bishop's Committee would want to do a separate meeting to question her prior to formally endorsing her. Phil suggested that we should ask her some questions just for peace of mind. All agreed that this was a good idea. Mark suggested that one group should meet to formulate questions for her. Christine and Esther offered to work with Catharine on the questions.
8. Parochial Report – Catharine reported that the parochial report was late. She plans to work with Dawn and will present it at the April meeting.
9. Status of Episcopal Church, parts and whole – Catharine discussed the departure of Resurrection Church in West Chicago. Theresa provided the article from the Tribune for anyone interested. Catharine noted that former deacon Judy Davis is there and leaving. Catharine distributed information from the Primates Meeting in Dar es Salaam and the Bishop of Chicago's current stance in response to the meeting. The question was asked, how we should approach these issues here at St. Benedict. Mark suggested having discussions in Adult Education.

Membership:

1. Shepherding Program – Bill Sheets and John Erickson will come to the next BC meeting in April and provide an update
2. Coffee Hour/Social Events – Carol Shelton is taking over coffee hour and brunches.

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3. Publicity & Communication – Leticia will lead this effort with help from Theresa and Phil. Leticia is taking over the Abbey in April. The Book Club started and Leticia put out a pamphlet to advertise.

Other Business:

Leadership and Ministry Fair – We need to get people to attend besides just the BC members. Mark stated that people who attend should provide feedback to BC. Catharine noted that registrations need to be sent in prior to the next BC meeting. Notice will be sent out by email, in the bulletin, and in the Abbey. John and Beth will talk about the Magnetic Church conference at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2007 at 7:30 PM.

Closing: The meeting ended with a closing prayer from Catharine at 9:30 PM.