

Church of St. Benedict
Minutes of Bishop's Committee Meeting
Held on
Monday, July 16th

Present: Sr. Warden Mark Wright, Jr. Warden Theresa O'Neil, Treasurer Peg Bauman, BC Members Christine Billone, Esther Simonson, Laura Ostrovecky, John Gush, Barry Conlin, Dave Smith, Clerk Stacey Johnson

Absent: Phil Bauman

Opening: The meeting opened at 7:30 PM with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Mark asked for approval on BC meeting minutes for meeting held on June 16th. John Gush made a motion to accept meeting minutes and Theresa O'Neil seconded the motion.

Finance Report:

Peg Bauman distributed the May financials. Some questions were raised regarding paintball items. It was noted that some of these were in the wrong place. Also, the question was asked if Account 1030 indicates a correct balance. Peg said the account was closed in July. Mark provided clarification regarding this discretionary account. All members agreed that we need better accounting with the new vicar. This account is not an actual budget item; it is the loose change from the first Sunday of each month. This item will be referred to the Finance Committee for future practices and recommendations.

Overall, giving is down. Esther will make a reminder on Sunday about giving.

Laura inquired about the Phebe Swinehart fund. Mark is going to talk to Catharine about this item.

Dave Smith asked about payroll liabilities listed under Other. It is currently a negative which would indicate that it is a credit. Peg will check into it.

Motion made by John Gush to place May budget on file for audit. Seconded by Ther. Opposed by Dave Smith. Motion then made by Christine Billone to accept with questions answered. Seconded by all present.

(The numbers indicated below correspond with the Meeting Agenda item numbers)

4. Search Committee Update (provided by Christine Billone)

The committee has officially met two times. Christine turned over leadership to Leticia at the first meeting. There is great diversity and commitment. The committee members all understand that they represent the whole church, not just individuals. The second meeting was on Sunday, July 8th. The group talked about their role as a discernment committee. Courtenay led the meeting and was very well prepared. People shared their frustrations with previous search committees. All felt the group was positive and could accomplish a lot. The people interested in being on the committee but not chosen were asked to be focus group facilitators. Everyone is looking forward to the retreat tomorrow night. There are some questions about surveys and focus group responses. Those will be discussed tomorrow night.

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5. Focus Groups Update (provided by Dave Smith, coordinator for the focus groups) Dave said there is a very positive attitude and great volunteering by the BC and other members to run the groups. Each group begins and ends with the question of what are the qualities we want in a vicar. 15-20 people have participated so far. Calls have been made to people who have not signed up. The leaders meet after the session to compile info. Alice and Dave will then consolidate all information. All focus group leaders will meet together on the 26th to finalize the needs of the church and the characteristics desired in a new vicar. A final document will be provided to the BC and the search committee approximately 1 week after this meeting, with a target date of Aug. 1st.

Other comments:

- Randall was great help in reviewing focus group questions and providing suggestions.
- After sitting in on a session, saw how well it worked. These groups provide a dynamic rather than just checking boxes.
- Appreciate the method, process and structure of the focus group. It is not just a gripe session.
- Does everyone feel like this is a positive process? Yes
- The people participating are the ones coming to church. We are not necessarily reaching the people who haven't participated.
- We need to try to stay positive with negative people.

6. Party for Catharine on July 29th

Theresa has not talked to Courtenay. Esther confirmed with Courtenay that she is the overall coordinator. We are going to involve Catharine in determining the service – favorite hymns, possible special blessing. Nothing is set yet but discussion is ongoing. Esther and Christine have both volunteered to help.

7. Gift for Catharine

Mark said the finance committee has discussed donating enough to bring the congregations' donations up to the nearest \$100 increment. John made a motion to accept this concept and Theresa seconded the motion.

8. One Service Survey Results

Christine provided a handout with tabulations and summaries. Overall the survey results do not convey one strong feeling. John suggested continuing with one service until the new vicar comes, at least to save money paying a supply priest for two services. Everyone decided it was best to just wait and see. Christine will provide a report for the Abbey to let the congregation know that we are not making a decision on the one service issue at this point. We are going to wait until the search process is complete.

9. Office Administration

- Dawn is on vacation Aug. 13-17. Who can fill in? Stacey volunteered for one day and Barry volunteered Grace Conlin for another day. Mark will create a volunteer sheet to fill the other days. Dawn will create an instruction sheet. Mark will take care of changing the voicemail recording.

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- Mark brought the contracts proposed for Victoria and Martha. They have already been reviewed by the finance committee and an attorney. John made a motion to accept the contracts. Theresa seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- The finance committee is working on a compensation package for the new priest. This was started last week and will continue.
- Mark asked if any parish members had fallen through the cracks during transition. Tami and Kai were mentioned. Stacey will contact them. Theresa will provide the contact information. Barry also has a few people that he will contact.
- Clergy has been set for the month of August. The supply priest is Don Frye. We should pencil Scott Hayashi in for September just in case. Mark will line this up.
- Mark will oversee Dawn during transition (after July 29th)
- Mark talked to Randall about Beth and was assured this would not be an issue.

10. Other Business

Quilt Table in the entry – The quilt is Catharine's. Theresa will get a plain linen for this table.

School Kits – Carol Shelton contacted Dave regarding school kits for kids. Dave is concerned that no one seems to be in charge. Dave will clarify with Carol. Esther will let Dawn know about the program.

Youth Group – Barry said youth group is great, as many as 9 kids attending. They meet every other Thurs.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2007 from 7 PM - 10 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, August 13th at 7:30 PM.

Closing: Motion to adjourn and the meeting ended at approximately 9:00 PM.