

Church of St. Benedict
Minutes of Bishop's Committee Meeting
Held on
Monday, October 15th

Present: Sr. Warden Mark Wright, BC Members Phil Bauman, Christine Billone, John Gush, Esther Simonson, Laura Ostrovecky, Barry Conlin, Dave Smith, Clerk Stacey Johnson, Search Committee Chair Leticia Hillesheim (portion)

Absent: Jr. Warden Theresa O'Neil, Treasurer Peg Bauman

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

Finance Report

We are still behind on pledges but better than last month. Not paying a priest full-time is still helping out financially. It was noted that the counters and bookkeeper may not be putting all item into their correct item numbers on the financial statements. All bills are consistent with prior months. The Diocesan grant money is now caught up after having been behind; payments are being made regularly. Peg is still working on providing the comparison of capital campaign (just the building fund) pledged to actual amount given.

***Motion made by John Gush to place most recent budget on file for audit.
Seconded by Dave Smith. All were in favor.***

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

C. Meeting Minutes

A correction was made that Laura had not attended the Diocesan meeting as indicated on the minutes. *Motion made by Christine to accept the minutes. Seconded by Dave Smith. All were in favor.*

D. Search Committee Update (presented by Leticia Hillesheim)

Please see attachment provided. The Search Committee unanimously recommends Heidi Haverkamp without any reservations.

Esther Simonson made a formal motion to accept the committee's recommendation for Heidi Haverkamp as vicar. Barry Conlin seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Bishop Purcell has given formal approval of this decision via Randall to Mark. Heidi has verbally accepted the offer by phone. A written offer needs to follow with three signatures: Mark, Heidi and downtown. Mark, Theresa, and Leticia will have dinner with Heidi to iron out any details. After that, they need a letter of agreement in place. (Mark clarified for everyone that the contract is for compensation and benefits and the letter of agreement is to provide roles and responsibilities.) The goal is to have her on board by mid-November. Downtown needs to do another background check.

When should we share the news with everyone? Mark will let everyone know when it is ok. It becomes official after the Letter of Agreement is in place which should be in approximately 2-3 weeks.

Currently we have supply priests scheduled through the end of December but that can easily be scaled back.

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Randall suggested a transition committee to work with Heidi at first. Esther offered to host an event at her home for introduction to the search committee, BC and their families.

Dave wanted to thank the search committee and said that he deeply appreciated their efforts and results.

The other two candidates have already been contacted to let them know the position is filled.

E. Hope 4 Kids

Presented by Laura & Christine - A program video was shown for this potential outreach program. Christine and Laura feel strongly that this is an opportunity for the church. We can sponsor 1 or 2 missions (such as an orphan) for \$26 per month. They are proposing to adopt one orphan and one program for widows (there are different options). The total cost is \$75 per month. Can we find this in our budget? We can make a strong showing, not just ask people for spare change. A child then becomes an adoptee of the congregation. We want to make it an outreach goal.

John Gush noted that there is no Outreach in our budget and suggested to hold it over for next year and put it in the budget. He stated that we previously decided that outreach money came from fundraising and all money has been disbursed.

It was noted that the budget will be worked out in December.

The idea was a feeling of inspiration. People like the idea that their money helps someone beside themselves.

Dave proposed that the BC desires to see this happen in 2008 and suggested that we could also use this as part of a stewardship campaign.

Dave made a formal motion for the Finance Committee to budget this program for 2008. The motion was seconded by Christine Billone. All were in favor except John Gush who abstained from voting.

F. Hospitality Update – Stacey

We have officially started the new coffee hour program. We are trying to simplify the process and make it more of a true coffee hour rather than brunch. The hospitality committee met once and scheduled people and/or groups through January. We plan to meet quarterly and will work out any issues as they arise.

G. Finance Meeting Update - Mark

1. Thank you from McGregor's for the gift.
2. Letter from Diocese of Chicago – gift for 9 years of service for Bishop Purcell towards endowment funds. FC is requesting that church as a whole donate \$500 as a gift. This money will come out of this year's budget since there is no vicar's salary currently being paid. Also, last month we only gave \$500 of the \$1000 requested for the bishop's

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search so essentially this will make up that \$500. *Mark made a motion to approve donating the \$500. John seconded the motion and all were in favor.*

3. Weekly Deposit Update – We found the lost deposit from last August. The FC put together a plan for Dawn to call on Mon AM to confirm deposits.
4. Waste Management Contract – 3 year contract for renewal. What about recycling? We will look into this further.
5. Discretionary Account Guidelines – Dave has completed these.
6. Capital Fund Update – Don't have this yet but working on it – see Finance Update
7. Stewardship Campaign – Theresa and Jill to run from Oct 28 to Nov 18.

H. Calendar Review

1. Supply Priest/BC Reps – subject to change but for now:
 - Dave – Oct 21st
 - Esther – Oct 28th (not here but Laura will take)
 - Esther – Nov 4th
 - John – Nov 11th
 - Barry – Nov 18th
 - Dave – Nov 25th

BC needs to send a letter to Randall and Scott in appreciation for going above and beyond in the recent search process time.

2. Bishop's Slate – had a meeting. Now there are 3 additional candidates. If anyone has strong opinions please email them to Mark or Theresa.
3. BC Candidates for 2008 – We need to start asking soon so that we have 4. We have identified a list of people and current BC members will contact them and report back. Mark requested that responses be emailed to everyone.
4. Do we want an Olan Mills directory? Overwhelming NO
5. Christmas Child Program – Esther will review

OTHER BUSINESS

Barry noted that the Youth Group is doing a little better.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, November 12th at 7:30 PM.

Closing: Motion to adjourn and the meeting ended.

(Meeting closed with the St. Benedict Transitional Prayer by Esther.)