

Vestry Minutes 6/27/2016

Present:

Joe Kaliszewski
Susan Fleming
Barbara Brecht
Kerlin Richter
Gary Allen
Linda Goertz (Deacon)
LeRoy Goertz
Jon Williams
Derek Moyer
Madeline Moore
Rachel Laursen
Kieran Cannistra
Fran Gardner

Opening Reflection

Linda led us in a reflection on Romans, Chapters 14-15.

Consent Agenda

Madeline moved to approve. Joe seconded. Approved unanimously.

Financial Status Update

Joe provided an update on the church's financial status. We are currently on track to have a year-end balance of \$3,000 to \$28,000. This reflects new pledges, strong building use despite the loss of Doors of Hope, and lower than projected staff spending.

Audit

Madeline shared that she intends to present audit findings at our July Meeting.

Vestry Status

Barbara announced that Dru has resigned from the Vestry. After discussion, the Vestry decided that it will wait before deciding whether to immediately fill the position or wait till January elections.

Youth

Leroy shared that he is greatly enjoying working with our youth. While he had originally thought that we would need to find a dedicated youth minister, he is finding that the youth are enjoying the opportunity for conversations for different adults in the congregation. He believes this model is working

but would appreciate help to make it more sustainable. Madeleine offered that Jessie Thompson might be a good fit and offered to reach out to Jessie.

Kerlin shared that the Diocese has an existing program for youth on Thursday nights called Confirm/Not Conform and that she is working to plug our youth into that Diocese wide program.

Roof

Barbara has been working to define the financial needs associated with our roof. She received three estimates: \$115,000 to \$140,000, \$175,000, and \$135,000 to \$190,000. A driver of the range in costs is that our roof has an unknown number of layers of old shingles that will be expensive to remove. The roofing contractors believe that our roof has three to five years of life left at most.

Separate from the shingle roof issue, the bell tower has a concrete roof which requires resealing and new flashing. The bell tower repairs would carry an additional cost beyond that of the roof repairs.

For next steps, Barbara said the vestry will soon need to decide whether to move to spend money to clean the roof and allow more time to develop a capital campaign, or to move directly into a campaign. As we explore a campaign, Barbara anticipates a structure where we would fundraise for a large portion of the cost and pursue a diocesan loan for the balance of needed funds.

Communication and Decision Making

Barbara and Kerlin opened a discussion on decision making and communication. A member of the congregation expressed concerns about the decision to hang a LGBTQ Pride Flag on the outside of the church. The concern was that the flag appeared to be in poor repair and therefore appeared to be disrespectful or haphazard in its expression of welcoming. The congregant was also frustrated that he did feel his concerns were heard or listened to. Kerlin took this expression of concern as an opportunity to explore how church leadership, both ordained and lay, maintain channels of communication with congregants. Some vestry members expressed that the vestry should do more communicate what happens at vestry meetings and how congregants can express their concerns.

Some ideas that came out of the discussion included:

- Including a one paragraph summary of vestry meetings in the E-Notes. Kieran volunteered to prepare these summaries.
- Promoting in the E-notes and other places that members can write to the vestry with questions or concerns at vestry@stdavidpdx.org
- Making announcements about vestry activities during the announcements after the Peace.
- Promoting norms for communication or a behavioral covenant which would provide guidance on how to handle conflict or disagreements. Derek shared that he had already started work in this area.

With regard to the issue of the flag, Kerlin shared that her preferred course of action would be to take down the flag and convene a buildings and grounds committee to determine how best to convey the

church's hospitality and welcoming to the LGBTQ community. Vestry members agreed with this approach.

New Members

Kerlin shared that she was excited by the new members joining our community. Vestry members noted that the church has had renewed energy in recent weeks with the success of the new coffee hour system, new members, and our improving budget forecast.

Closing

Kerlin closed us in prayer.