

CHT Vestry Meeting Nov. 15, 2016
Minutes

Spiritual Reflection: Liz Poole gave a wonderful spiritual reflection concerning feelings in the aftermath of the election.

Present: Rector: Rev. John Beddingfield; Wardens: Inez Lambert, Yvonne O'Neal
Alexandra Barker, Nancy Fessenden, Jean Geater, Marlin Mattson, Fabio Mejia, Liz
Poole, Susan Valdés-Dapena, clerk
Absent: Leona Fredericks, David Liston, Lionel Tiburcio, Christine du Toit

Treasurer's Report (Gus and John):

Michelle (bookkeeper) was let go on November 8, 2016 because of several weeks of undeposited checks.

John was given the name of Maria Wainwright who is finishing a job on another church. She has been hired to get all of our bookkeeping up to date and streamlined so that down the line we can hire someone to deal with the day-to-day management.

Behind budget due to boiler expenses and diocesan assessment. Meaningful shortfall but within reasonable spending of endowment.

Audit ongoing. Gus happy with that process.

October minutes amended and approved.

Rector's report:

Hired new bookkeeper, Maria Wainwright, who seems promising. Systems person. Creating database for contributions. Segregate contributions from pledges. She noticed that as a problem in recording right away. Banking background. She plans to come once a week at least through holidays. Help us get a bookkeeper who will continue on and do actual bookkeeping. Move to maintenance bookkeeping, but Maria will be available to consult, esp. w bookkeeping systems. Works well with Erlinda.

Denim (Paul) Wolf worked w St. Luke's about their use of property. Gave us homework. Three columns of spaces: total control, share, let someone else have total control. St. Christopher's House. Use more space. Something more aggressive with apartment building 341. Air rights to church. If a building wanted to build over Bare Burger, we could sell air rights with Brearley.

Wall behind organ. Ivy removed from outside. Repoint outside of organ wall. Need for big fundraisers around the organ.

Need architect for certificates. Suggests hiring someone from outside.

Wardens' Reports:

Inez: Vestry election. Inez is running for warden a second term. Liz run for 2-yr. term, Alexandra will run for full term. Alden will run for 2-yr. term. Leona, Bea Tompkins, Susan Walker, and Patricia Burkhardt. Need to ask Suzanne Julig.

Annual Meeting. Jan. 22.

Yvonne: How are people doing with inviting people to attend church? International potluck—not enough response from vestry.

Diocesan convention: Yvonne ran for deputy to general convention and because she got the most votes, she may be chair of the deputation. 4 lay and 4 clergy on committee.

Workshops on the three tracks for strategic planning.

Excited about the way the Diocese of NY is asking people to take responsibility in our moving forward. Support rector in continuing education. We are a congregation not a parish. Building our common life. Each member of our congregation give at least 5 hours to the diocese or other churches. Could be great if we were involved in the exchange. Eastertide pulpit exchange. Strategic plan passed unanimously—by-law changes etc. Can read more on diocesan website.

PRJ—Reconstituting as a resource group for the vestry and the CHT congregation.

We can mobilize and education on issues that come up, if we have support of vestry. We talked about making a newsletter highlighting some resources and events. Mentioned doing an event during the Commission on the Status for Women in March. Also to show a film inviting local youth and from other churches, for teens—with discussion and pizza based on diaries from girl shot at Columbine maybe Jan. or Feb.

Other reports:

Absentee ballots: Minor change in by-laws. John brings proposed change in language so people can vote for vestry with absentee ballot. Takes into account parishioners who travel or are shut in. Voted unanimously.

Susan reported on diocesan seminar on youth ministry.

Rhineland Building Sale update: Full endorsement of Community Board 8 and Landmarks commission. Next go to City Planning Committee for review. Maybe petition to Ben Kallos to allow the sale of Rhineland Building to Testing Prep. Company.

New Business:

Next Vestry meeting Dec. 13. People will bring wine, appetizers, dessert.

Vitality practices and characteristics. January retreat. Using model instead of general committees that we usually use.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Valdés-Dapena, clerk