

**Minutes of St Stephen's Vestry Meeting  
Wednesday, February 28, 2018**

In Attendance:

Sam Pease, *Warden*, Bob Jackson, *Treasurer*, Dan Dubeau, *Clerk*; Alan Wittrup, David Bigley, Bruce McWhorter, Marylou Lawrence, Tanya Buchanan, Matt Templeton, Jim Laprade, and Declan McHugh, *Youth Representative*.

7:05pm: Opening prayer, led by Sam.

Agenda and minutes (Jan) voted on and approved.

Bruce noted that he felt communications might be added to the agenda. Sam stated that we would indeed attempt to fit that in but it would be tabled if not enough time. All agreed.

Sam welcomed the new Vestry members – introductions made.

**WE SERVE**

Search Committee Update – Mary Lou reported that the application process is now closed. There are many applicants from all walks of life in all different parts of the country. Over the next few weeks phone interviews will be conducted. Tom Lutz was recognized for having done an exceptional job as the Clerk for the Search Committee.

We came back to Bruce's question regarding communication with Father John. He asked if there are any limits that are placed on access to Father John. Members are welcome to just ask him after church if he has time to meet. Or, if a need arises and you wish to speak with him, one can call Susan at the church and arrange a time – though it might have to work within Father John's availability schedule.

**WE WELCOME/EVENTS**

Church Party Idea

- Sam wanted to revisit this concept that we have brought up in the past.
- Sam shared that the intent should be to create awareness in the community about what's happening at St Stephens. This should serve as an opportunity to welcome new families and invite more – keeping the event open.
- Discussion on timing included whether or not we wait until the new Rector is identified and tie in a welcoming. However, some felt that

sooner was better than later to have an event like this. There was also discussion about how many families are tied up all summer.

- Conversation then targeted late May as a potential date, and that the event would be geared towards families. Dan volunteered to lead a committee, as he had offered prior. It was agreed and Matt, Tanya, and Bruce all volunteered to serve on the committee.
- The committee will meet to develop ideas and a concept and get back to the Vestry.

#### Amy Whitcomb-Slemmer's Ordination Reception

- Several people have organized to have this event be successful, including Nancy St John, Leigh Dickson, and Christine Woodward.
- Preparations are underway.

#### White Earth Mission Trip (David Bigley)

- Deacon Dan was successful in helping the White Earth Committee secure a grant from the diocese. It is a matching grant of up to \$10,000.
- The committee has also raised \$3500 thus far, so they are on their way. They have not yet attempted to raise funds outside the church.
- They have created a budget for the trip.
- They will need to compile waiver documents for participants to sign.
- There are a series of meetings scheduled with the core group that includes Tim Reynolds, Deacon Dan, David Bigley and Al Wittrup's wife.
- White Earth members have committed to housing many who will be traveling there. Roughly 9-10 people.
- They intend to bring VBS to White Earth and have volunteers who will present the program.
- They also hope to help restore the lake house at White Earth Reservation so that it may be used as a retreat center in the future.
- Targeting the third week of July for the trip, unless it needs to be pushed off to next year due to funding. They have set no expectations with the White Earth people. However, optimism was shared amongst the Vestry that it sounds like between what they have raised and the matching grant that has been offered that they are close to having what they need to make the trip a reality. There was consensus to keep this program concept in motion.
- Discussion on budget for this mission and how to pay for it ensued. Bob shared a glimpse of the budget constraints that were to be discussed later. He suggested speaking with the Outreach Committee.
- Mary Lou feels this program will create a lot of energy at the church.
- Alan agreed and said there are not a lot of teenagers around our church and this might attract more.
- Matt shared that in terms of setting priorities and a vision for the church, programs like this are what create community.

## **WE WORSHIP**

- No issues presented. Lenten preparations under way and plan in place.

## **WE GROW**

- One wedding in June is booked.

## **WE TRUST**

### Property Update (Sam):

- We desire to have the hallway in WRH finished. It is currently off the budget.
- We are done with church renovations for 2018.
- Rectory: The lead abatement project will run \$8000 according to a quote received. A law changed as of December 1, which lessened the amount of work that must be done.
- Sam is still looking into window replacements.
- Roof repair will cost \$4000-\$5000.
- Hoping to schedule a Rectory “clean up day”.
- There is plaster that needs to be cleaned up in the master.
- We have most of the funds needed for these projects in the property budget, approximately \$25,000.

### Financial Update (Bob)

- Bob gave an update on the Mortgage Elimination initiative that he undertook. The goal was to raise approximately \$23,000 to pay off the mortgage. Good news – he did it! He attained all of the money needed in ten days from 19 families. Truly amazing! Another family wanted to give \$5000 after the goal had been achieved and Bob asked if that family would be willing to pay for the new roof repair on the Rectory and they agreed.
- Bob also reviewed the current budget status.
- Bob reviewed a budget projection for 2019. It will be important that we reverse the trend of declining pledge income once we have a new Rector on board, as the financial commitment will only become greater. Tougher financial decisions lie ahead. The good news is we have 10 months to work on growing our church and the mortgage elimination certainly helps.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.

NEXT VESTRY MEETING: March 21, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J Dubeau, *Clerk*