

PARISH OF ST. PAUL - VESTRY MEETING

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

at the home of Joan Brandmahl and David Oliphant

Present: Joan Brandmahl, Richard Pearce, Margaret Hummel, Lee Hatfield, David Montgomery, Tim Dunn and Betsy Blagdon. Absent: Betty Murray, Ellie Pandorf and Bernice Cramer. (Items in **bold** indicate further action to be taken.). The meeting began with an opening prayer at 7:35 p.m.

PIC Candidate. Discussion was held concerning impressions of the candidate who had recently visited St. Paul's. While agreeing that he appeared to have numerous administrative strengths, the consensus of those who met with the candidate was that he was not a good fit with the somewhat eclectic nature of the St. Paul's community and that we should accordingly ask the Diocese to work with us to find another candidate. **Joan will follow up with Greg Jacobs at the Diocese.**

Discussion on Curent Strategy. Lengthy consideration was given to how developments in recent months have impacted St. Paul's Plan for the future of the Parish as adopted in October 2006 and as further articulated in our "Focus of St. Paul's Ministry for 2007 - 2008". Most notably, Carol Flett's departure has left us without consistent pastoral leadership at a time when such leadership is very much needed. That has meant that the fundamental elements of our plan – namely increasing our membership and building connections with St. John's – have not been pursued as anticipated as relatively limited resources have been focused instead on keeping basic parish activities functioning. Since the time of Carol's departure (May), five months have been lost with respect to implementing our 2006 Plan. A spectrum of possible options to recommend to the parish as a whole was considered ranging from (a) sticking to the plan as originally adopted in October 2006 - including a more decisive vote concerning the type of leadership we would seek next (and by implication the relationship we would seek going forward with St. John's) to occur in fall of 2008, to (b) recommending such a vote now for the Parish's immediate consideration. Following discussion, and upon motion duly seconded, the Vestry decided it was in the Parish's best interest for the time being to continue with our 2006 Plan as previously adopted but to extend the end date for holding a formal vote of the Parish as to its future leadership out by the same amount of time we ultimately will have been without a PIC. In anticipation of the coming Sunday's discussion with the Parish, in which we hoped to share our own thinking and to "take the pulse" of the congregation concerning its thoughts on St. Paul's future, it was agreed we should underscore and celebrate that the Parish as a whole has stepped up to the challenge of being without a priest. Further discussion of logistics concerning the Vestry hosted lunch were discussed.

Vestry Person of the Day. These duties (primarily covering announcements during the 10:30 a.m. worship service) will be covered by the Vestry persons on counting duty.

Finance Committee on Restricted Funds. Richard and David visited the Diocesan archives to see if Parish of St. Paul's records on file there would shed any light on restrictions that may apply to our "permanent funds." They found only occasional references to same and a few leads for

further research. **They plan next on reviewing records on-site at the Church for further guidance.**

Stewardship Drive. It's getting to be that time of year again. All members of Vestry were encouraged to start thinking of an appropriate theme for the coming pledge drive. **Richard and David will plan to work on formatting applicable documentation once suitable themes and accompanying text have been developed by Vestry as a whole.**

Budget 2008. **Joan will get the word out to the various committee/initiative heads that it is time for them to submit their budgetary requests for the coming year.**

The Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Montgomery, Clerk