

November Vestry Meeting Minutes  
November 18, 2008

Present: M. Rita, Jeff Perry, Lew Phillips, Jim Blanchette, Patty Counihan, Nancy Dymond, Cassy Palmer, Heather Soweine, Sue Gormley, Andy Tripp. M. Rita opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes for October 21 and 29: M. Rita presented minutes from the October 21 Vestry meeting. A change was made to the minutes to reflect that exit signs were not to be removed, but illuminated differently. A motion was made and seconded to accept the October 21 Vestry minutes, no discussion, motion passed, 8-0. The October 29 special Vestry meeting minutes were also presented. It was clarified that Elizabeth Patches said that undesignated contributions should be \$1,000 higher. A change was also made to reflect \$200,000 on motion 2 and \$50,000 under discussion. A motion was made and seconded to accept the October 29 special Vestry meeting minutes, no discussion, motion passed, 8-0.

Sr. Warden's Report: Gary Creaser was not present to give his report.

Haiti Report – M. Rita reported that the art auction was a success.

Outreach Budget – M. Rita reported that Gary will discuss designating the Haiti Matrix for fourth Sunday outreach at the December Vestry meeting.

Jr. Warden's Report: Jeff Perry reported that winterization is underway. The main gas line is expected to be installed by Bangor Gas soon.

Anne Holland joined the meeting already in progress to report on the Haiti Matrix working with Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies, Inc. Donations were raised to benefit HMHB, Inc. from an art auction and reception, the sale of art at the Diocesan Convention and cards modeled from quilts. The proceeds from the benefit and donations are \$734.00 to date. A motion was made and seconded to designate the fourth Sunday plate collections for November to the Haiti Matrix. Under discussion, Lew Phillips asked if this designation would affect funding for 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday. M. Rita said that fourth Sunday funds are not enough to cover 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday expenses. M. Rita tabled the motion until December so that 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday finances can be examined further.

Treasurer's Report/ Finance Report: Andy Tripp presented the monthly income/expense report. M. Rita reported on the Finance Committee. Joan Phillips has resigned as chair of the Finance Committee. M. Rita and Andy will step in as co-chairs for an interim period. L. Phillips moved that Bruce Mallonnee and his associates be thanked for their work preparing the easement letter for Bangor Gas; motion was seconded, no discussion, motion passed, 8-0. M. Rita also reported that Finance Committee recommended that M. Rita and A. Tripp be issued debit cards. A motion was made and seconded to issue debit cards to M. Rita and A. Tripp linked to the current Deacon's discretionary fund, with a balance of no more than \$600; no discussion, motion approved, 8-0. A motion was also made and seconded to change the name of the Deacon's discretionary fund to the debit card account fund. Under discussion, M. Rita said that it should be called an account and not a fund; motion approved, 8-0.

Stewardship Report: Jim Blanchette reported that 91 pledges are in, for a total of \$238,266; 12 of these pledges are new from last year. The committee asked that all Vestry pledges be in by Sunday. Vestry and Finance Committee members will be making calls to those who have not turned in pledge cards.

Old Business:

Fundraising Group - Nancy Dymond reported that the Fundraising group will meet this Sunday.

December 2 Meeting Update – M. Rita reported that there will be a potluck dinner to celebrate the capital campaign with a slide show on the project. This will conclude with a financial report on the capital campaign, testimony by the stewardship committee, and a discussion of ways to alleviate the debt.

New Business:

Annual Meeting and Vestry Nomination Process – M. Rita reported that this is February 8. Nominations need to be presented to the congregation well in advance. Sue Hunt will call outgoing Vestry members to meet and create a slate of nominations and bios to present at the December Vestry meeting. All parish nominations need to be in by January 11. Sue Gormley left the meeting at this time.

Winter Hospitality/Community Response – M. Rita asked if there is a desire by the Vestry to see St. John's offer hospitality to the community during the winter months. This would require volunteers to be present. The Vestry supported looking into whether there are persons in the congregation interested in volunteering to staff a hospitality room.

Pension Payments and Diocesan Payroll – M. Rita asked Andy to leave for the Vestry to discuss the fact that St. John's has not been paying pension payments to Travis and Andy. They have elected not to receive benefits through the Diocese pension fund, but prefer to use individual retirement funds. A motion was made and seconded to enroll Travis and Andy on Diocesan central payroll and medical cafeteria plan at the cost of \$141/person per year; no discussion, motion approved 6-0. A motion was made and seconded to offer individual retirement benefits to Travis and Andy in an amount equal to the church pension fund for their salary and their number of hours, to be paid in total for this year, then to be deducted regularly thereafter; no discussion, motion approved, 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassandra L. Palmer, Secretary