



"Disciples of Jesus, Discipling in love"

VESTRY Minutes- Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Attendees:

The Rev. Joseph Acanfora, Rector
Kerry Bremmer
Philip Chakram
Bill Collins
Mary Edwards, Registrar
Intercessor: Renee Carpenter and
Deirdre DiGirolamo

Gayle Fischer, Senior Warden
Andy Harris, Junior Warden, Absent
Stephen Klein
Phil Rooney, Treasurer
Tawnia Wheeler

The October 22, 2019, meeting of the vestry of Church of the Apostles came to order at 7:15 P.M. with opening prayer, singing, and a devotional discussion from Session 2, *The Postmodern Path to Faith* from the book study, *I Once Was Lost*, by Don Everts and Doub Schaupp.

Guiding Scripture: Titus 3:1-11

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. ⁹ But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. ¹⁰ As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

How often do we, like the authors approach evangelism and discipleship by what we want or like to do, without considering where local non-Christians are coming from, so as to ease them toward Jesus in small steps? Paul instructs Titus to *be ready for every good work*. How does he begin this instruction? How does it apply to us today in relation to reaching the lost?

We need to find out what people need when we approach them. As Jesus became incarnate among us he ate with people, came to their weddings, shared life with them. We need to connect with people relationally. Small steps are: to be ready for every good work, avoid quarreling, be gentle and show perfect courtesy toward all people.



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Five Thresholds: praying, learning that we can choose to enjoy and accept others as people, bonds can form, affirming (hard to sometimes see something to affirm in other people). Perfect courtesy towards all people, which is what they need to hear, not what we are willing to say. Perfect courtesy is from the point of view of the receiver of the courtesy. You have to be able to relate to other people.

- 1. Finance/Building Update:** Phil shared a resolution for the vestry to consider to offer Reverend Ryan Bettwy a \$2,400 housing allowance for calendar year 2019, the same as his compensation for serving as a youth minister among us. He also is serving as a deacon with us, working approximately 40 hours per month, and He is expected to be ordained as a priest on November 24 at Restoration Anglican Church.

Kerry Bremmer made a motion to approve the \$800/month stipend for Ryan, contingent upon the Finance Committee meeting next week. The motion was seconded by Tyler Aberle and passed unanimously.

Phil presented an update on the current track of our 2019 budget and the status of the Lee Highway building costs left to pay. Funding has been coming in from the congregation for the kitchen fund and for chairs for the sanctuary, and at this point, we have met the funding needed to satisfy the bank.

Joe spoke briefly about the concept of an annual pledge commitment. Traditionally COA has been a church that encourages members to honor the tithe. After discussion around the table, we decided not to pursue a pledge campaign in the coming year.

We met the goal for the \$25,000 matching grant offer from the Matthew 25 Initiative of ACNA for the kitchen, so we are in the process of contacting them by email to see what documentation we need to submit to receive the funds.

All Pro Sound arrived this past Friday to install speakers, sound systems, projectors, screens, everything in the sanctuary but the soundboard on the upper floor. Items we own already will be used in other areas of the building.

The building is about 90 percent complete at this point, and the contractor anticipates completion by November 1.

Shrubs, trees, grasses are being planted, and mulch spread by a number of volunteers.

Kerry brought up a discussion about decorating the church building interiors. Joe suggested that we wait for a while until we get settled in the building before we start thinking about decorating.



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We are beginning to make plans for moving into our new facility during the week of November 11. We will need many volunteers to help with final cleaning and packing up and labeling items at the Pender office prior to the move. Moving will follow with setting up furniture, unpacking, and staging the various rooms. We are making plans to hold our Consecration Service with Bishop Guernsey on Saturday, November 23, 2019, at 5 P.M. Our first Sunday service would be on November 24th at 10:00 A.M. Prior to these services, we will have a few days of training and rehearsal to make sure the sound system is working properly and everyone is on board with the order of things.

2. **Preliminary discussion of 2020 budget:** Joe suggested the Finance Committee meet again in the next two weeks to get everything together and then present our proposed 2020 budget at the next vestry meeting in November.
3. **Report from the Search Committee:** Tyler gave the report. The Search Committee has met with three candidates, so far. They are wrestling with the process in terms of one name coming forward, or one going out. They have committed to prayer and fasting for this process. A fourth candidate came on the scene recently. The committee reached out and called the candidate. Since then, the candidate has received a call in his local area and stepped back from COA's consideration. The committee will be meeting this Thursday and hope the Lord will show them the one whom He is calling. Joe offered a piece of advice to the committee, "don't call the "best" one, call "the" one".
4. **Feedback from Bishop John Guernsey's visit: October 19-20:** It was really good to be able to share casual time with the bishop, just being with him having conversation. He is a very down to earth, humble man. Very encouraging to his clergy.

His message on tithing on Sunday was very spot on in an non-threatening, non-emotional way, pointing out how you will be blessed in giving. The tithe is not a destination, it is a mile marker on the road as you go by.

Upcoming meetings for 2019: 11/12, 12/10

The vestry meeting finished at 9:15 P.M. Tawnia Wheeler motioned to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Kerry Bremmer and passed.