



"Disciples of Jesus, Discipling in love"

VESTRY Minutes- Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Attendees:

The Rev. Joseph Acanfora, Rector
Kerry Bremmer
Philip Chakram
Bill Collins
Mary Edwards, Registrar
Guest: Annie Patterson

Gayle Fischer, Senior Warden
Andy Harris, Junior Warden
Stephen Klein
Phil Rooney, Treasurer
Tawnia Wheeler
Intercessor: Deirdre DiGirolamo

The July 23, 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 of Colossians 3:18-4:6 (Week 8 from Colossians Bible Study: *"Instructions for relationships both inside and outside the faith" Gospel Glimpses, Whole Bible Connections, Theological Soundings, and Personal Implications* (PP 59-65). A few of the key take-aways were:

Gospel Glimpses

Change has to happen from the ground up, you can't legislate morality. You need inward transformation of the individual. An example of this is the response of the church to slavery in Great Britain in the 19th century. In a move of the Holy Spirit there was a groundswell through the church of Christian renewal, during which time missionary societies popped up, hospitals opened, orphanages were built and there was genuine concern for the welfare of people.

Social issues can't be legislated. We have to show people a better way through conversations and love. Today's youth is leading the way on culture issues, racism and abortion, to confront the culture in order to change it.

Colossians: 4:5-6. "Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

Take advantage of opportunities as they come, making the best use of our time. Jesus was an attractive person, people flocked to him. We need to be more attractive to people. We need to be savory, not bland or vinegary. What do we do that is off-putting to the world?



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Acceptance vs. Approval. Jesus accepted Zacchaeus. The Holy Spirit convicted Zacchaeus of what he needed to change.

Whole-Bible Connections

Paul talks about what the inheritance means in a New Testament perspective. To the ancient Israelites it was inheriting the promised land. In the new creation we inherit it all, but what we most want is to just be with Jesus. Today, people are afraid of what they might lose, rather than the abundance of what God has in store for them. Would people live differently if they knew they had the opportunity to be royalty in God’s house?

Theological Soundings

Paul focused on prayer. You have to be prayed up, and you have to fill up in order to pour out.

Colossians 4:2 “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”

Sometimes you have to be relentless because things crowd in and steal time from being with God. Otherwise you won’t enjoy His presence.

Martha vs. Mary – Task orientated vs. sitting at His feet. We struggle with this.

1. Finance and Building Update: Phil Rooney shared the current status of income and expenditures and the DFJ/Building Fund Track. Our expenditures continue to track lower than our monthly income.

Funds budgeted for Camp Highroads will not be used this year, as we did not have enough kids sign up for camp to make it a viable program this year. We will hope to run it next year. Tawnia Wheeler suggested that we try and run the camp in July since August is a difficult time to hold camp as the kids start back to school towards the third and fourth weeks of August.

Since converting Chris Rothgeb earlier this year to a full-time position and anticipating the hiring later this year of an additional clergy position we will need an additional \$4,000-6,000 or so to cover additional expenses for these two position for this year .



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As it now stands, we need to have another \$182,164 in order to pay for remaining expenses before we take occupancy of the new church building. We are continuing to pray that the Lord will meet these needs as He builds His church.

We have a separate contract for the kitchen construction of \$42,000 on which we have paid \$10,000. ACNA's Matthew 25 Initiative has given us a matching grant of \$25,000. We currently have about \$4,000 in the Kitchen Fund, so we will need an additional \$21,000 in giving to the Kitchen Fund to receive the whole ACNA grant. As an added blessing, Sally & Bill Hoover donated a commercial electric convection oven, which finalized our decision to have an all-electric kitchen. Gayle reported that she and Joe have gone to a few auctions for restaurant equipment and have been able to buy a stainless steel triple sink, and some work tables for a little more than \$300.00, and a warming oven and insert pans for about \$450.

The cross is now in the building and the construction company will be working on the base and it will be going up soon.

Raj Aberle has reviewed our landscape plans and will be doing some of the planting around the building. Mary Edwards told the vestry that several members of the congregation approached her about donating plants from their yard for the landscaping. She volunteered to draft something up for the Apostles News soliciting plants, shrubs and trees for the church site, so that we can make an inventory of what we have available to us.

2. **Update from Bylaws sub-committee:** Kerry gave a report on the most recent meeting and progress of the sub-committee. A copy of the draft was given to all the vestry members, and then was rescinded. It was decided that Gayle will meet with the committee to do a final review of the by-laws and have it available for the vestry at one of our next meetings for review and final approval.
3. **Update and discussion from clergy search committee:** They will be meeting next week. Emily Rausch dropped out of the committee for personal reasons, so now there are seven members. Kerry suggested that we should consider nominating Abigail Klein to fill the eighth slot. We originally had five candidates for the position. One has dropped out, so we are now down to four applicants. The committee has been listening to sample sermons and anticipate starting interviews shortly.



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- 4. Approval of Building Use Policy.** Stephen Klein gave a final report on the Building Use Policy handbook. Joe brought up his concern regarding Item #4, "Uses Requiring Vestry Approval." He feels strongly that we need to get the vestry out of the day-to-day operations of the church, have them focus on big picture items, and leave the day-to-day workings of the church to the staff. Bill made a motion that we accept the Building Use Policy, as amended, to remove Item #4. Gayle Fischer seconded it, and all approved the motion.

- 5. Assignment of Vestry person to replace Mary Lockett:** The rector and senior warden's recommendation to replace Mary Lockett is Tyler Aberle. This will be for the period of August 2019 - March 2020. At that point he could stand for election for a new term. Kerry made a motion to approve Tyler's addition to the vestry. Tamara seconded it, and all approved the motion.

- 6. Other:** Welcome Back Willow Springs. The Willow Welcome will be on Friday, August 23. Anita Aberle is coordinating this event, and we will be soliciting volunteers from the congregation to help.

Upcoming meetings for 2019: 8/13, 9/10, 10/8, 10/22, 11/12, 12/10

Adjournment: Tawnia Wheeler moved to adjourn the meeting. Andy Harris seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.