



"Disciples of Jesus, Discipling in love." VISION

Church of the Apostles glorifies God by celebrating the healing power of the Holy Spirit through prayer, praise and worship that overflows into community, living the joy of knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Minutes of Vestry Meeting February 10, 2015

Clergy Present: The Rev. Joseph Acanfora, Rector

Vestry Members Present: Bill Collins, Sr. Warden; Jane Campbell, Jr. Warden; Terry French; Gayle Fischer; Mike Kelley; James Daffron; Andrew Blount; Tom DeSocio; Paul St. Andre; and Lynne Harris.

Vestry Members Absent: Joel Carrillo and Brad Brewster.

Others Present: Gary French, Administrator; Phil Rooney, Treasurer; and Pierre Pope and Gretchen Keitt, Intercessors.

The meeting began at 7:15 pm with holy praise and worship, prayers, and a reading and discussion of Luke 14: 25-33 – Counting the Cost to Follow Jesus. The Rector asked the Vestry what this scripture was saying to them. Paul shared that it helps us understand what it means to follow Him. James shared that it speaks of commitment—to the point of death. Gretchen and Jane shared that it reminded them of the story of Gideon. Jane read from Judges 7:1-7, where God kept decreasing the number of men who would accompany Gideon for the battle against the Midianites from 22,000 to 10,000 to 300, and God said, “I will save you.” God didn’t want Israel to boast that her own strength saved her. Jane reminded us that God wants the glory when he miraculously intervenes for us.

The Rector asked us, “What are the implications for the church?” Mike shared from verse 33 in Luke, “If any of you does not give up everything, he cannot be my disciple.” Mike said this is telling us that if you’re not a disciple of Christ, you’re a disciple of Satan. Gayle shared that this means there is no middle ground. The Rector shared that the Scripture tells us that right after Jesus says this, He turns around and plunges into the “darkness,” into the crowd, and draws people into the Kingdom.

Terry noted that Jane had pointed out that this Scripture is not about a building and said, “But, it is in a way.” Then Lynne shared that reading the Scripture made her recall a town in Greece she had visited where there were many unfinished houses—some with only a foundation or a foundation and one wall, some with a foundation and four walls, some with even a second story, but still unfinished. It appeared that the people built their houses in increments as money became available. Gary later related Lynne’s illustration to the cost of a building that is capitalized and spread (or amortized) across the useful life of the asset through financing (i.e., mortgage) payments.



The Rector led the Vestry in reading our Vision statement.

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Status of Potential Building. The Rector shared that Apostles has received a purchase and sales agreement from the sellers of the property at 9715 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax, VA, and that it is with our attorney for review. The Rector also shared that the Architect and his team were at the property last Thursday and Friday and today to work up the test fit (rough drawings to show that our desired use of the space would fit the floor plans). The Rector shared that he saw the rough drawings last Friday. Once the test fit is completed and appears workable, detailed drawings will be prepared and submitted to contractors for a cost estimate.

Capital Campaign. The Rector asked Vestry members if they had a chance to read Bp. Guernsey's letter endorsing Randy Watts and the Del Rogers Company. Vestry members acknowledged that they had read the letter. Del Rogers, Sr., CEO, founded Stewardship Enrichment, Inc. to help churches with Capital Campaigns. The Rector shared that he has spoken with Randy Watts and also contacted six of the references among the many that were listed on the several-page list that he was provided. All six references gave good reports. The Rector shared that Randy Watts and Del Rogers base their fund raising campaigns on prayer and faith, not personal meetings and arm-twisting of congregants. The Rector shared that all six of references also told him that church unity was the biggest benefit of their capital campaigns.

The Rector shared that regardless of whether our cost study shows us that we could afford to purchase the property on Fairfax Blvd., Apostles will need a building to carry out the Vision the Lord gave us. If we determine that we can afford the Fairfax Blvd. property, we will need to move quickly to obtain pledges. Phil shared that the amount of pledges are considered by banks as a firm commitment when deciding whether to provide financing to churches. Phil shared that he already received one pledge for \$30,000 (\$10,000 annually over three years). The Rector shared that he received a call from a single mother who said she planned to pledge \$20,000 over a couple of years. The Rector asked the Vestry if we were willing to grant Phil approval to print pledge cards, as we would need to move quickly on fund raising if we determine we can afford the property on Fairfax Blvd.

James moved and Mike seconded a motion that the Vestry grant approval for Phil Rooney, Treasurer, to generate pledge cards in support of a capital campaign. All were in favor.

The Rector shared that Del Rogers has provided Apostles with a contract proposal with Stewardship Enrichment, Inc. for primary direction and leadership for a local capital campaign using a scripturally-based format that aligns with our church personality and needs over a 3-year period. The Rector distributed copies of the contract to the Vestry. The cost of the contract would be \$44,000 to be paid over a 7-month period from March 1 to September 1. Under the contract, Stewardship Enrichment, Inc. would:

- Provide Apostles a scripturally-based format for our capital campaign.
- Provide consultation to adapt Stewardship Enrichment to the personality and needs of Apostles.
- Furnish instructional material, manuals, forms and other helps for campaign program leadership enlisted from Apostles.
- Provide instruction and supervise Apostles' campaign program leadership.
- Prepare and direct a prayer emphasis to establish the spiritual foundation for our program.

- Give guidance for preparation of informative material—the factual basis of the program.
- Assist in developing the organization (structure) necessary for Apostles to give every family the opportunity to make a commitment.
- Supervise the process of receiving commitments.
- Outline the follow-up activities necessary for successful continuation of the program over the 3-year period at times agreed to with Apostles.

The Rector shared that Randy Watts will be in our area at the end of the month and could be available to meet with the Vestry at our February 24 meeting. The Rector shared that the Vestry may want to approve the contract prior to meeting with Randy. He shared that in his prior business experience this type of action demonstrated commitment and gained the business partner's commitment to quickly move forward. Gayle noted that we already have pledges that exceed the contract amount. Paul shared that Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us, "Seek the Lord's will in all you do and He will provide." He is Jehovah Jireh.

Mike moved and Terry seconded a motion that the Vestry approve the capital campaign contract with Stewardship Enrichment, Inc. headed by Randy Watts and the Del Rogers company. All were in favor.

The Vestry returned to a discussion of counting the cost. Tom, Mike, and Phil shared concerns that we need to see what the cost of acquiring the Fairfax Blvd. property is. Tom clarified that the capital campaign is not the issue; the issue is whether we can afford the property currently under consideration and whether we should incur a large mortgage to do so, instead of raising funds first. Tom shared that he is opposed to taking a mortgage in principle. He doesn't believe the church should go into debt. Gary shared that most churches acquire debt to finance their property, but the debt is paid over time. The point is that the cost, including the debt needs to be affordable. Commitments through the capital campaign should tell us that.

The Rector shared that we are currently assessing the cost of acquiring the subject property, and we have not signed the purchase agreement. However, we would still need to move forward with a capital campaign in order to be in a good position to consider purchasing a property in the future to carry out the Vision that God gave us.

Jane asked if each of us on Vestry should speak to what God is telling us. Mike shared that he thought we needed to get a sense of where the Vestry is in principle—are we willing, conceptually, to finance the acquisition of a church property through a mortgage. Mike shared that he viewed the vote on the "Sense of the Vestry" as a "straw poll." The Vestry agreed to such a vote.

Mike moved and Terry seconded a motion to have the Vestry vote in principle on their willingness to take a reasonable mortgage to fund the acquisition of a building. Of the 10 Vestry members present, 9 voted in favor and 1 member abstained.

As we had exhausted our meeting time, discussion of the Youth Pastor Job Description, Congregational Retreat, and COAA Bylaws will be deferred until a future meeting.

Gayle moved and Tom seconded a motion to adjourn. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.