

**Final Minutes of Vestry Meeting  
October 28, 2014**

**Clergy Present:** The Rev. Joseph Acanfora, Rector

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

**Vestry Members Absent:** Brad Brewster and Paul St. Andre.

**Others Present:** Gary French, Administrator; Phil Rooney, Treasurer; and George Keitt, Missions Director; and Pierre Pope and Jan Rooney, Intercessors.

The meeting began at 7:15 pm with holy praise and worship, prayers, and a reading and discussion of Genesis 22:1-19. – *Abraham is Tested*. The Rector asked Vestry members for their thoughts on tonight's scriptures. Mike Kelley shared that we often come to the Lord with our hands out to receive, but we should have our hands out to give to Him because He has given us so much. All we have is His. James Daffron noted that Isaac is a foreshadowing of Christ. Abraham was willing to give his only son. Gayle Fischer shared about the awesomeness of God's blessings in response to our faith and obedience. God said through Abraham all the nations on earth would be blessed!

**Vision Statement.** The Vestry recited the vision statement.

***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.***

**Business:**

**Parish Meeting Feedback.** The Rector asked the Vestry to share feedback from the congregation on the Parish meeting. The Rector shared that a couple of members said they were overwhelmed by the energy level of the Vestry at the meeting and explained that these members were indicating that they felt a gap between the Vestry's grasp of the Vision and where they were, hearing about our new Vision for the first time. The Rector shared that this was not a criticism but rather an expression of where these members are—they need more time and explanation to fully understand what the Vestry had more than a year to digest. The Vestry considered whether we may need to spend additional time sharing and explaining our new Vision to the congregation.

**Missions Subcommittee Report.** Jane Campbell presented the results of the Mission Subcommittee's review of our mission ministries in light of the priorities established as part of our Visioning effort. Jane referred to a large briefing page that showed the Subcommittee's analysis using the eight criteria in the visioning milestones:

- 1) Mission aligns with our Vision,
- 2) Strong relational ties with the congregation,
- 3) Congregational support/involvement,
- 4) Strong, regular communication with the congregation,
- 5) Demonstrated need,
- 6) Measurable success - fruit of the Spirit; God is blessing the ministry,
- 7) Financial accountability, and
- 8) The call of God on our hearts and minds to partner with them.

Jane shared that the Subcommittee met two times during the past month, and the Subcommittee was well balanced, with two members leaning toward local missions and two members leaning toward overseas missions. Jane shared that after much deliberation, the Subcommittee felt five ministries met the final criterion, “the call of God on our hearts and minds to partner with them.” Those ministries are: Facets, Lamb Center, Grate Patrol, St. Nicholas Orphanage, and Dale Gavlak’s ministry.

Jane went on to describe the difficulty in receiving the idea of reductions in the mission budget by the Missions Committee. George Keitt shared that the Subcommittee and Jane made a good case that our level of giving is down and we cannot afford the same budget as we had last year. George also shared with members of the Committee that John Kirby plans to enter the Seminary by next summer and we will need a full-time Youth Minister. Members of the Missions Committee resisted the idea of reducing annual support for the five missionaries, however and wanted to convey three concerns to the Vestry.

- 1) Are the other ministries, such as the Healing Center, taking funding cuts?
- 2) Do not pull the rug out from under the missionaries, but look at the effect of the budget cuts.
- 3) The priority should be a finding another, more central meeting place and hiring a youth minister only when we have more youth.

The Vestry did not feel these statements were aligned with our Vision Statement. The Rector shared that we are transitioning from a church that does missions to being a missional church and that it may take time for everyone to fully understand the difference.

Because the level of giving has continued to decrease, the Vestry recognized the need to cut spending in some areas for the 2015 budget. However, to be a viable church, we need to grow. This requires that we have our own meeting place so that we can have services on Sunday mornings, and possible add a Saturday night service at some point. We also need to draw families with children, and this will require an experienced, full-time youth minister. The Rector shared that he is aware of a youth minister who very recently resigned from The Episcopal Church in Albany and will need to find a new position. The Rector said that regardless of who the new youth minister may be, it is most important that we have a smooth transition. In this regard, the Rector shared that it would be beneficial for the a new youth minister to work with John Kirby for a few months before John leaves so they can observe how John works with our youth and the youth can get to know the new youth minister while John is still with us. The Rector shared that the transition overlap will be more costly, but we owe it to our youth to have a smooth transition, particularly after two previous youth minister transitions that were hurtful.

**2015 Budget Proposal.** Phil Rooney distributed the Treasurer’s Report on September 2014 financial activity. Last month, based on the level of giving and the related deficit, the Vestry had asked Phil to develop a 2015 proposed budget of \$1 million—a reduction of about \$68 thousand. Phil explained his methodology in developing the budget, which included reprogramming some savings to fund a full-time youth minister and some cuts to missions. The savings relate to (1) a reduction in salaries because Jay Baylor will be full-time at Burning Heart next year and Phil is reducing his hours, (2) forgoing a monthly reserve, and (3) a reduction in health insurance cost related to a change in health insurance plans. Because further staff cuts will not enable us to keep current programs going, and Apostles is not the only source of funding for our mission evangelists, the Vestry recognized that we needed to cut funding to our missions.

James Daffron moved and Mike Kelley seconded a motion to approve a 2015 budget of \$98,825 for missions. All voted in favor.

George Keitt will communicate the change in the mission's budget to members of the Missions Committee and advise them that the church will give them the choice of front-loaded mission funding distributions for 2015 to give ministry leaders additional time to raise funds from other sources, if needed.

**Prayer for the Congregation.** The Rector shared that he wanted the Vestry and clergy to pray for the congregation over the next month. The Rector shared that office staff are updating the list of Apostles members and those who regularly attend our services. He explained that he will share the list with the Vestry at our next meeting and ask that we divide the list and pray over the names on our lists. The Vestry viewed this as an effective way to implement Paul St. Andre's suggestion that we pray for each member of the congregation at our last meeting.

**Potential Building.** Gary French shared that the property currently being considered has several advantages and would be affordable. The building is located at 9715 Fairfax Blvd. in Fairfax--the site of the former Mama Italian and El Paso Restaurants at Route 50. The area is already zoned to include churches and we were told that we would be allowed to install signs on the building. Most of the building is in bad shape inside, and it will need a lot of work. However, the building has a large industrial kitchen, and recently remodeled bathrooms on the first floor, which would be the sanctuary space (8,300 square feet—seating about 250 people). It also has a full basement with bathroom facilities that could provide space for classrooms and program areas. There is a partial upstairs (a sort of mezzanine area) that could provide office space (about 1,500 to 1,800 square feet). Our lease cost would be based on the square footage of the main floor only (less than half the total square footage). Gary shared a Letter of Intent, which would be our proposal to the property owners. The owners are motivated because it is hard to lease or sell the building in its current condition and they are incurring costs for real estate taxes and Insurance.

We would propose to lease the property for two options of 5 years each, with the first 3 years having no lease cost in order to allow us to pay renovation costs before incurring the cost of a lease. Gary cautioned that the owners may not be willing to wait the entire 3 years before receiving lease payments. The conditions the owners proposed included them paying the cost of bringing the property into compliance with requirements in applicable laws, codes, rules and regulations. We specifically proposed that the building owner install a sprinkler system to meet fire code. In addition, we are proposing that the owner repair the fence at the rear property line and re-surface and re-stripe the parking lot, which would add significant costs for them.

The Vestry asked questions regarding the level of commitment involved with a Letter of Intent. Gary responded that the Letter of Intent is just a proposal that indicates our interest in the property and will likely be negotiated because we asked for more costs to be covered by the owners than they may be willing to cover. Gary shared that this leaves us some room to negotiate. Gary explained that signing the Letter of Intent would not commit us to the property, and said that we could back out up to the point of signing a lease. Also, during the negotiation period, we would confirm that the City of Fairfax would allow us to put up signs for Church of Apostles, Community Center before we would commit to a lease.

The Vestry asked about the time required for renovations and our likely move-in date if we reached an agreement with the owner. Gary shared that the move-in date would depend on getting permits and drawings, but we could possibly move in by late summer or early fall—about 8 months after we sign a lease agreement. We may also be able to move in before all renovations are completed. The

The Rector asked if the Vestry was comfortable granting approval for the Church to sign the Letter of Intent.

Tom DeSocio moved and Mike Kelley seconded a motion that the Vestry grant approval for the Church to sign the Letter of Intent to lease the property at 9715 Fairfax Boulevard, in Fairfax, VA. All were in favor.

As there was no additional business, the Rector shared that the next Vestry meeting would be held on November 18, 2014, and called for a motion to adjourn.

Gayle Fischer moved and Lynne Harris seconded a motion to adjourn. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 pm.

The Rector led the Vestry in a closing prayer.