

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 17, 2007

PRESENT: The Rev'd Jennifer Pedrick, The Rev'd Scott Gunn, Linda LeBreux, Carolyn McDonough, Bill Dench, Bob Bergstrand, Janice Fagan, Marilyn Fuller, Susan Hawryluk, Richard Messier, Virginia Rocha

ABSENT: The Rev'd Richard Shippee, Michelle Callahan, Mike Seger, Bonnie Wright

GUESTS: none

At 7:08 pm, The Rev'd Jennifer Pedrick opened the vestry meeting with a prayer.

The Rev'd Pedrick said this is Sr. Warden Linda LeBreux's last vestry meeting. She has been the senior warden for the past three years and has been on the vestry for seven years. Linda is an incredible leader and has been an amazing support to the Rev'd Pedrick. Linda's many ministries include choir, Eucharistic minister, lector and much more. The Rev'd Pedrick and members of the vestry offered their thanks and wished Linda the best. Linda said it has been a real pleasure to serve on the vestry.

**Merger Update:- Attorney Jim Hahn**

Jim Hahn shared the latest developments on what needs to happen next with the merger process. There remains an issue regarding the vote that was taken at the special parish meeting on January 14, 2007. After the meeting with the Standing Committee last week, St. Martin's attorney, Margaret-Mary Hovarth, indicated to Jim Hahn that the wording of the exhibits is questionable. A 10-day notice had not been given to St. Martin's at the appropriate time before the two resolutions were voted on. To correct the motion, another vote will take place by former members of St. Martin's parish on Sunday, January 28, 2007. Jim stated this is just a formality only, and does not impact the parish-wide vote taken on Sunday, January 14, 2007. A letter drafted by Attorney Hovarth is being mailed to the former members of St. Martin's advising them of the meeting on January 28, 2007.

Jim spoke on the timing of the name change and the filing of amendments on January 29, 2007. Jim advised that a motion be made regarding the business name. Per Jim Hahn's wording, a motion was made by Linda LeBreux for the church to adopt a fictitious name of Church of the Epiphany – East Providence and that appropriate filings are made with the Secretary of State to evidence such adoption. Richard Messier seconds the motion.

Bob Bergstrand amended the motion on the floor to Church of the Epiphany – Rumford. Janice Fagan seconds the motion. Discussion focused on the location of Rumford as it relates to our local identity. It was also noted that Rumford is a village of East Providence. The Rev'd Pedrick stated the name has already been voted on at the parish-wide vote taken on Sunday, January 14, 2007. The Rev'd Pedrick asked for a vote on the amended motion with two in favor and eight opposed. The amended motion does not pass.

The Rev'd Pedrick asks for a vote on the original motion with eight in favor and two opposed. The original motion passes.

Janice Fagan asks Jim Hahn if we are able to accept checks made out to Church of the Epiphany. Jim Hahn replies yes.

Jim Hahn reports there remains an outstanding issue with the deed to the church property. A parcel of land where the church is located has a restriction from the original donor, Potter Machinery, which restricts the property to church use. Jim Hahn will get clarification of this situation through the title search process.

Another issue concerns an approval required from the bishop regarding what the special funds will be. The Rev'd Gunn attended a diocesan council meeting just prior to the vestry meeting and said the diocesan council is working on a draft of the policy. The committee does not meet again until February 28, 2007. Jim Hahn will pursue this matter with Ed Bennett, Chancellor to the Diocese.

Further discussion focused on how merger expenses will be taken care of; the Rev'd Pedrick will be speaking to the bishop about these matters. Approval must come from the Standing Committee and the bishop. Jim Hahn will speak to Ed Bennett, regarding getting approval from the bishop. Bob Bergstrand states that we do not want to have this issue hanging and we need to be protected. We have fiduciary responsibility to protect the assets of this parish. Linda LeBreux states that the diocese has been very supportive in this ongoing process. Steve McGrath says we should have something in writing from the bishop before February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Virginia Rocha asks whether the diocese has been made aware of the title restriction problem. Jim Hahn reports that Ed Bennett, is aware of the restriction on the deed.

### **Merger Worship and Reception – vestry participation**

The Rev'd Pedrick asks that vestry members attend the merger services and reception on January 20, 2007, as it is one of the most important days in the life of the parish. Virginia Rocha reports the welcoming reception is taken care of. Vestry members will help as ushers and greeters.

The Rev'd Gunn reports that the bishop is happy about the merger, and excited about the choice of the name change. She views this as an act of generosity and the strengthening of God's presence within our parish.

### **Pastoral Issues**

Vestry members agreed that the meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2007, went well. It was noted that voting is clearer with a hand count as opposed to voice vote. The endowment rules and regulations is a concern of the parish. The vestry will follow up with a clear explanation of endowments especially for the annual meeting. Parish members may need a short overview on Robert's Rules of Order at the start of the annual meeting...

### **Next steps for incorporation and reconciliation**

It was brought to Linda LeBreux's attention that a group for reconciliation may be helpful as we move through the transition process. The vestry will work out details in the coming weeks.

### **Assistant's Time**

The Rev'd Gunn will be away Sunday, January 28, 2007, attending a meeting on congregational development in California. He is attending for the diocese of Rhode Island.

The Rev'd Gunn will be away on vacation February 11 – 22, 2007, to attend a meeting of the Primates and Archbishops in Tanzania as an observer.

The Rev'd Gunn reported that in addition to the influx of people from St. Martin's we are also seeing new people who are not from St. Martin's. We plan to celebrate this new growth in the coming months. .

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bill Dench, Treasurer, reports that the December financial statements not available as yet.

Financial information on reorganization costs was distributed to vestry members. It was noted that the attorney's fees were not shown, and that there may be other expenses as well to consider. The vestry was asked to give input regarding other expenses relating to the merger.

Attorney Jim Hahn has indicated he would discount his bill by 20%. Richard Messier suggested that the organ at St. Martin's be sold to help defray costs of the merger. The Rev'd Pedrick said the property committee will work on this. Bill Dench said the December financials will be ready for the next vestry meeting.

### **Buildings & Grounds Report**

Marilyn Fuller advised the vestry on the response from the Attorney General's office regarding Fournier Roofing. Bob Bergstrand reported that Fournier has fulfilled his contractual obligations as there have been no further leaks from the repaired roof. The invoice has not been paid pending assurance that the work has been completed to our satisfaction. Ceiling tiles have been replaced in hallway and sacristy.

The annual elevator inspection took place and several items were cited as problem areas which must be brought up to code. Bob Bertstrand received a quote of \$4,000 to make the necessary code upgrades. The elevator is fully operable and only needs to be brought up to Rhode Island's newest standards. Bob recommended that we use the Lancaster Fund as a source of funding for the elevator upgrades. Steve McGrath made a motion that we fund the elevator from the Lancaster Fund. Susan Hawryluk seconds the motion.

Linda LeBreux advised that we can only use the interest from the Lancaster Fund as we must maintain a principal amount of \$15,000. At the present time, there is not enough interest to cover a \$4,000 expense without going below \$15,000. It was suggested that this expense be put in with the merger expenses.

Further discussion centered around the time frame for completion, pursuing other quotes, and allowing the treasurer and senior warden to work on the funding. The vestry, in principal, agrees to the upgrades, and will allow the treasurer and the senior warden to work out the funding details.

Linda LeBreux made a motion to table the motion until the next meeting. All were in favor. The motion is tabled until the next meeting. Bob Bergstrand will let the State of Rhode Island know that we are pursuing quotes on this issue. The Rev'd Pedrick advised Bob Bergstrand to meet with Bill Dench and discuss other funding resources.

### **Vestry meeting prior to the annual meeting**

To discuss the agenda and financial statements prior to the annual meeting, a vestry meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2007, at 7:00 PM.

### **Other new business –**

Richard Messier reported on the following action items regarding St. Martin's:

- YMCA of Pawtucket should be sending a Certificate of Insurance within the coming week
- Home Depot credit card will be cancelled
- All outreach groups have returned their keys
- Aramaic Orthodox Church is interested in purchasing the church. They will be taking a tour of the property on Saturday, January 20, 2007

The Rev'd Pedrick asked Richard to let her know should anyone be interested in buying the property.

AT 9:30 pm, The Rev'd Pedrick closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Fuller, Clerk