

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin, Florida

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting February 28, 2018

Members Present: Pastor Becky Robbins-Penniman, Deacon Cindy Roehl, Bill Blizzard, Dave Dube, Diane Niford, Sandy Kneen, Jerry Mullinax, Dan Depies, Cheryl Sharpe, Bob Lee, Joe Nixon, Pat Cates (clerk).

Members Absent: None

2018-2019 Vestry Photo was taken.

I. Call to Order and Opening Devotions

- The meeting was called to order by Pastor Becky at 6:35PM
- The Opening Devotion was given by Cheryl Sharpe

II. Bible Study

- Pastor Becky led the Bible Study from Ephesians 2:1-8.

III. Information

A. Mark Your Calendars

- **March 7:** Goal-setting meeting @ 6:30PM
- **March 7:** Vestry Retreat planning @ 7:00PM
- **March 8:** New member colloquium at 6:00PM
- **March 9:** Drum Circle @ the beach
- **March 10:** Meals of Hope Packing Event @ 8:30AM
- **March 11:** Daylight Savings Time begins
- **March 11:** Information meetings re: Becky's Sabbatical 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM
- **March 11:** New member social at 4:00PM
- **March 28:** Vestry Meeting @ 6:30 PM
- **April 8:** United Faiths Walk of Peace at 2:00PM
- **April 27 & 28:** 2018 Vestry Retreat
- **April 29:** Fifth Sunday Coffee Hour
- **May 5:** Diocesan Vestry Retreat: Adaptable Leadership
- **May 21:** Becky's Sabbatical begins

B. Financial Report

- Handouts #1A and #1B were received as information.
- Joe brought attention to the Restricted Accounts on page 10.
- He noted the corrected figures which were handwritten on the report.
- On Account # 008636 Patio Pavers the Ending Balance is \$12,823
- On Account #008900 Capital Campaign Income the Ending Balance is \$678,138.98

- In looking at pledge information Joe noted that 2018 is currently the lowest amount pledged since 2010.
- 73 pledges totaling \$141,577 have been received. This compares to 75 pledges for \$156,000 in 2017
- It was noted by a member that there was some confusion as to where to return the completed pledge cards
- It was also asked if there were increases in individual pledges. Joe responded that he will get this information from Jan Cote who keeps track of the individual pledges.
- Three parking lot events are happening this month: the Beer Fest, Seafood Fest and St. Patrick's Day
- Joe noted that he is having trouble getting volunteers and will send out an additional plea for helpers for the Beer Fest this weekend.
- Joe also noted that all bills for February have been paid but that contributions are lower than projected.
- Church attendance has been good, and it was speculated that there was no fifth Sunday which may account for the lower contributions as compared to other years.

IV. Decision

A. Consent Items

- January 24, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes--approve
- February 7, 2018 Organizational Meeting—approve
- Approve changes to people authorized on the parish checking account
 - Remove Scott Hood
 - Add Cheryl Sharpe and Sandra Kneen
- Approve Fundraising Request from Judy Warner on behalf of the Choir to sponsor the new chairs for the remodeled choir loft. Handout #2
- The January 24, 2018 Regular minutes; February 7, 2018 Organization Meeting and the Fundraiser request were approved by consensus.
- In a separate action there was discussion on the changes to the authorized signers on the parish accounts.
- Diane Niford moved: Resolved that Scott Hood be removed from the Church Operating checking account and the Furniture Thrift Store checking account and that the following persons be added to these accounts: Cheryl Sharpe and Sandra Kneen. Seconded by Dave Dube.
- Approved.

B. November Meeting: Move back to regular meeting date of November 28?

- At the last Vestry meeting the November meeting was moved to November 14th so as not to conflict with Thanksgiving.
- After a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Vestry to hold the November meeting on November 28th.

- The December meeting date will be kept at December 12.

C. Approve & Sign Parochial Report

- Handout #3
- Pastor Becky briefly discussed the report.
- Joe Nixon brought attention to “Subtotal Normal Operating Income A” and Line 8 “Capital funds, gifts and additions.”
- These two lines will be the basis for the Diocesan tithe in 2019.
- There was a brief discussion on Line 8.
- A motion to approve the Parochial Report was made by Jerry Mullinax and seconded by Cheryl Sharpe.
- Approved
- The report was signed by the Rector, Treasurer and the Clerk.

D. Purchase of Sunshine Plaza

- Handout #4 “Analysis of Sales”
- Bob Lee motioned that the Vestry purchase Sunshine Plaza for \$275K; seconded by Jerry Mullinax.
- In the discussion which followed it was pointed out that the Town Hall meeting was very informative. It was mentioned that some members of the parish who did not attend the meeting felt “left out”.
- It was suggested that a subsequent meeting be held for those persons who did not attend the Town Hall Meeting. It was noted that this meeting would be “after the fact” as the vote to purchase Sunshine Plaza will probably happen at this Vestry meeting.
- It was determined through this discussion that many congregational members who had questions about the purchase did not attend the Town Hall meeting nor read the Business Plan.
- Pastor Becky said that any further issues relating to the purchase can be addressed at a later time but that the present discussion needed to focus on the motion on the floor.
- Pastor Becky allowed each member to speak through mutual invitation.
- The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously.
- Pastor Becky pointed out that neither she nor Deacon Cindy Roehl voted on this matter.
- There was a discussion on the amount of the loan which would be taken with the Diocese. Foremost was the tithe of \$27.5K to the Diocese for the gift of \$275K from the Endowment Board.
- The Diocese will authorize a loan up to \$330K for ten years at the interest rate of 3.875%.
- Joe Nixon recommended that the Vestry take the loan of \$330K as the parish might have difficulty in paying the \$27.5K tithe. \$30K of the loan can be placed in a restricted fund and used to pay the tithe in two years.

- Cheryl Sharpe moved to take a loan from the Diocese in the amount of \$330K. Seconded by Bob Lee.
- Approved.
- Bob Lee made a motion to accept the \$275K gift from the Endowment Board for the purchase of Sunshine Plaza as specified in their January meeting. Seconded by Diane Niford.
- Approved.
- Becky took a point of personal privilege to note: (1) how incredibly hard the Furniture Thrift Store board worked (2) how honest the members of the Vestry were with each other during the entire process; the patience that you showed each other and (3) that the Vestry members did not make a pre-decision in addressing this matter. The Vestry came into this as people who are taking the decision to purchase very seriously.

V. Planning

A. Goal Setting: Preparing for the session on March 7th

- Due to time restraints there was no discussion on this item

VI. Discussion

A. Member's letter leaving Good Shepherd

- Handout #5 "Letter from Joanne F. Forsythe
- The letter prompted discussion from the Vestry
- It was noted that there needs to be a more robust system in place to identify members who are "MIA"
- Additionally the congregation members should be encouraged to contact the church when they need something.
- It was emphasized that Good Shepherd "takes people as we find them regardless of their background" The parish encourages "Come as you are—all are welcome".
- A plan to address these issues will be addressed in goal setting.

B. Leadership & Learning during Becky's Sabbatical: What does the Parish need to focus on while she's away? Perhaps we should ALL make an effort to go to the Diocesan Vestry Retreat on Adaptable Leadership.

- Pastor Becky gave background relating to her experiences with a Rector's Sabbatical.
- Becky asked the Vestry, "What is our plan and what do we need to focus on during my sabbatical?"
- Becky noted that there will be four ministers to cover the Sundays while she is away: Ann Chaplin, Bob Wagenseil, May Ann Dorner and Ann Robbins.

- There was a discussion on a number of topics including pastoral care and the offer of clergy from Ascension and Holy Trinity to help if needed. Cindy Roehl is also a resource.
- In terms of the Vestry Cheryl Sharpe will set the agenda and chair the meetings.
- It may be beneficial for Becky to post a blog on some of her activities

VI. Closing Devotions

- The closing devotion was given by Cheryl Sharpe

VII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Pat Cates
Clerk