***Christ Episcopal Church, Dearborn***

**Vestry meeting – Sunday, April 23, 2017 at Noon**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**: Carolyn Blackmore, Diana Brehob, Shirley Damps, Selia Danes, Dennis Kirchoff, Rosine Kubwimana, Michael Mroczyk, Daniel Pawa, Thomas Trimble, Mitch Yudasz

**Absent:** Rev. Terri Pilarski

**Guests:** Susan Bennett, Kevin Green, Margaret Green, Joshua Scroggins

**Recording Secretary**: Nicholas Bell

**Call to Order**: Nick called the meeting to order at 11.59am

**Introductions**

**Agenda and minutes (annual meeting & vestry minutes, parochial report) - Nick Bell**

* The agenda as eMailed by Carolyn on April 20, 2017 (attachment #1) was agreed

**eMail Motion and Voting on minutes of March 12, 2017 Vestry meeting**

* On March 19th 2017, Diana made an eMail motion to approve the minutes of the March 12th 2017 Vestry meeting. Daniel seconded the motion. Voting ended March 23rd and the motion passed with all nine Vestry members approving

**Minutes of 150th Annual meeting**

* Carolyn made a motion to approve the minutes of the 150th Annual meeting as updated following whole parish review and update. Daniel seconded the motion
* Discussion:
  + Kevin’s asked if there was opportunity for additional updates after the motion and it was clarified no, Vestry approval is final. Nick can accept administrative corrections to spelling or grammar
* Carolyn called the question and the motion passed with nine Vestry members in favor, none against and no abstentions

**Stone Circle prayer step 1 – Carolyn**

* See description in agenda (attachment 1)

**Opening Prayer – Daniel**

**Mission Field: renaissance plans; moving forward – Carolyn facilitator**

* Carolyn introduced the context: Requiem and Renaissance workshop (March 23), sustainable budget conversation (February 23), more than money conversations (Fall 2016)
* Focus today: CEC mission (see attachment #2)
* Brainstorm using Post-IT Notes: Seeds, Flowers, Fallow
* Big questions and next steps were captured on flipcharts
* Shirley, Dennis, Michael and Rosine agreed to work with Carolyn and form a ‘Hub’ group to follow up on today’s discussion

**Letter from Vera Fakhouri on Liberia School project – Daniel**

* Daniel read a letter from Vera Fakhouri with her resignation as Chair of the Liberia S.C.H.O.O.L committee
  + The active group has become smaller
  + Trivia nights were not pursued due to lack of people signing up
  + The monies presently in the Liberia S.C.H.O.O.L dedicated account will be sent to the church in Liberia to support the continuing building work
    - this includes proceeds from Youth fund raising for desks
  + Continued connection with Good Shepherd church will continue through “Family of the Month” (see Library display case and May Courier article)
  + The group is taking time off from active fund raising, apart from annual Christmas card initiative
* Of the four people who travelled to Liberia, three are no longer CEC members. Daniel has continued as a member of the committee
* A whole church focus would be required to reignite support

**Stone Circle Prayer process step 2**

* Each attendee spoke a prayer on behalf of their stone partner

**Mission Field Moving Forward – Carolyn facilitation**

* Strengthening relationships is a key objective of future activities
* Decisions on vestry member liaison roles:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Commission** | **Liaison** |
| Christian Formation | Thomas Trimble |
| Evangelism | Daniel Pawa |
| Finance | Diana Brehob |
| Parish Life | Selia Danes |
| Property | Dennis Kirchoff |
| Stewardship | Shirley Damps |
| Worship | Rosine Kubwimana |

* Need to be clear on the liaison role and expectations
* Dennis – think less about deficit and more about spirituality and relationships – per Gettel advice
* Kevin – what is our mission?
* Who is coming up with the strategy? Vestry? Group of Seventeen? Or, Hub?

**Finance Update – Thomas Trimble**

* March income was significantly low compared with forecast – this may be a result of over-optimistic forecasting for the month of March and Finance will review at end April (income may not have been properly divided between March and April due to Easter being in March 2016, but April this year). April month to date income is encouraging
  + The March Treasurer’s Report shows that we have now dropped below the year to date forecasted deficit position for the first time this year
  + First quarter statements are being sent out and will serve to remind parishioners to become up to date with their pledges
* Finance found that we have $1,997 remaining in the funds that we were given by the diocese to cover curate’s (Maryjane Peck) expenses. CEC Treasurer has spoken to Diocesan Treasurer, Mark Miliotto, and he said that the money was not expected to be returned and may be used by CEC. The Finance Commission considered two uses of this money:
  + Split it 50-50 between rector discretionary and 2017 deficit deduction (Terri’s preference)
  + Use the entire amount on 2017 deficit reduction
  + After discussion, the Finance Commission voted to recommend that all the money be used for deficit reduction
* Thomas made a motion that monies from the Curate expenses fund and monies from the spaghetti dinner be applied to 2017 deficit reduction. Carolyn seconded the motion
* Discussion:
  + Kevin commented that Finance believed that this is the right decision based on sentiment at the Annual Meeting to reduce the budgeted deficit
  + Selia commented that the purpose of the spaghetti dinner was intended to be deficit reduction
* Thomas called the question and the motion passed with nine Vestry members in favor, none opposed and no abstentions

**Any other Business**

* Carolyn reminded Vestry of the Diocesan Ministry Fair and encouraged participation (Saturday, May 6)
* Daniel will lead a small group of Vestry members to clarify expectations of Vestry Person of the Day. VPOD material to be updated in Vestry members’ binders. Volunteers, contact Daniel
* Margaret commented that any Renaissance plan needs to have a 3-5 year horizon
* Kevin asked Nick to record all of the Post-It notes as well as groupings

**Closing prayer:** Daniel

**Adjourn** Nick closed the meeting at 2.13pm

*Respectfully submitted by,*

*Nicholas Bell*

* On May 6th 2017, Michael made an eMail motion to approve the minutes of the April 23rd 2017 Vestry meeting. Thomas seconded the motion. Voting ended May 14th and the motion passed with eight Vestry members approving (one Vestry member did not respond to the motion)

**Next Vestry meeting:** Sunday, May 21, 2017; gather 11.50am

**Upcoming 2017 Vestry Person of the Day:**

April 30 Selia

May 7 Diana

May 14 Dennis

May 21 Michael

May 28 Shirley

**Responsibility for Vestry article in Courier:**

May (due April 20) Carolyn

June (due May 20) Selia

**Future Vestry meetings (Sundays) and other key dates - 2017**

May 20 (Saturday) Dinner to celebration 150th anniversary

May 21

June 25

August 27

September 17

October 22

October 27/28 (Friday/Saturday) Diocesan Convention - Novi

November 12

December 10 Bishop’s visit – dialog with Vestry, no Vestry business

January 7, 2018

January 20, 2018 (Saturday) Budget

January 28, 2018 Annual meeting

**ATTACHMENT 1**

Agenda  
Vestry Meeting  
April 23, 2017  
Noon – 2.00pm

11:50 Gathering: ROOM 213 - CIRCLE

**12:00** Call to Order Nick

12:00 Agenda and minutes (vestry minutes; Annual Meeting minutes; online business) Nick

12:05 Meditation – stone prayer 1 Carolyn

12:10 Opening Prayer Daniel

12:15 **Mission Field**: Renaissance Plans; Moving Forward Carolyn

12:55 Circle Prayer - stone prayer 2 All

**1:00 Break**

1:10 **Mission Field**: Moving Forward; Strategies; Liaisons Carolyn

1:40 Finance update Thomas/Diana

1:50 Any other business – May 6th Ministry Fair; VPOD;

1:55 Reflection Prayer - stone prayer 4 and 5 All

**2:00 Adjourn** Daniel

**Call to Mission - Feeding people in body, mind, and body**

**Commissions, Committees, Ministry Teams**: Does it?...

1. build and deepen relationships?
2. enhance the mission?
3. forward the five-point plan?
4. contribute to sustainable budget vision?

**PRAYER STONES** (4-23-17 cmb)

Stones are named for each member of group

1. Select a stone – greet and check in with your ‘stone partner’
2. PRAYER CIRCLE – We will go around the circle and ask each person to say a short prayer (less than 20 seconds), holding up a particular need of their stone partner.
3. CONSCIOUS RELATIONSHIP – throughout the proceedings try to remain conscious of your stone partner, and his/her engagement
4. REFLECTION CIRCLE – At the end there will be a few moments to share your thoughts on this activity and how it affected you.
5. PRAYER WEEK – Write your prayer partner’s name on the card, return the stone; actively pray for this person each day.

**COURIER ARTICLE (MAY)** Carolyn **COURIER** (**JUNE)** Selia due 20th month prior

**VPOD SCHEDULE: 4/30** Selia

**5/7** Diana

**5/14** Dennis

**5/21** Michael

**5/28** Shirley

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**Mission of Christ Church** “Christ Episcopal Church welcomes, inspires, nurtures and replenishes through worship, fellowship and education. We seek to live a Christ-like life by embracing our broader, diverse community and serving others.”

**Mission statement:** Feeding people: Mind, Body, Spirit

Core Values: We at Christ Church Dearborn affirm our identity as Episcopalians, living our relationship with God in mind, body and spirit, through tradition, scripture and reason. We journey together asserting the following core values:

Acceptance Christ Episcopal Church opens its doors to all, encouraging open-mindedness, celebrating diversity, embracing reason and nourishing the spirit.

Worship CEC offers a traditional liturgy, with beautiful ritual, scripture and music, honoring each individual’s devotion to God and the experience of multiple pathways to spiritual fulfillment.

Outreach Seeking to do God’s work in our community and the world, Christ Church serves others by sharing our time, talent and treasure.

Education Seeking to do God’s work in our community and the world, Christ Church serves others by sharing our time, talent and treasure.

Social Conscience Seeking to do God’s work in our community and the world, Christ Church serves others by sharing our time, talent and treasure.

Interfaith Seeking to do God’s work in our community and the world, Christ Church serves others by sharing our time, talent and treasure.

Fellowship We gather in joyful communion, giving thanks for all that is and will be, offering and accepting hospitality, support and care which nurtures our relationship with God and one another.

Sanctuary CEC strives to be a safe, spiritual place, where diverse people feel welcome to seek God and feel comfortable to open their hearts and minds.

**FIVE POINT ACTION PLAN:**

The five point action plan to address the 2015 deficit states that Christ Episcopal Church will:

1. Remain focused to become stronger in our Mission as a Community-Centered Church
2. Invite parishioners to participate actively in more strategic and concerted activities that build relationships among ourselves and more importantly with the wider community in the Dearborn area
3. Encourage parishioners to join a group to identify and implement reasonable cost reduction ideas; particularly those that reduce our carbon footprint and make us better stewards of the environment (examples: use less paper, reduce natural gas and electricity consumption)
4. Appeal to the Parish to increase pledges by 15%, or about $510 on average per pledge
5. With advice from Treasurer and Finance Commission, borrow from a restricted fund, as and when necessary, to meet cash flow needs or to close any remaining budget gap