

Vestry of Emmanuel Church
Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2014

Present: Mother La Rae, Randy Valenta, Bill Hoekwater, Jim Beyer, Jen Enriquez, Bob Ekroth,
Cindy Motl, Penny Longo, Sam Brenneman, Andy Doliff (Dorren Gertsen-Briand, secretary)

Absent: Jamie Workman, David Shallow

The meeting called to order at 7:05pm, with Mother La Rae presiding.

B. Vestry secretary update

A motion to appoint Dorren Gertsen-Briand as next vestry secretary was made and approved unanimously.

C. Previous Minutes

Minutes from January and February vestry meetings reviewed, edited, and then accepted unanimously as updated.

C1. Electronic vote regarding Jamie's motion to sign a snow removal contract with Kevin's landscaping for March and February passed with nine voting Aye and two not voting.

D. Treasurer/Budget report

The report was only just received this evening since Linda Brongel sprained her ankle, on top of other family woes. Normally it is emailed out before meeting like other reports. The report was generated from Church Windows. Bill asked if Linda could include a fifth column titled, "Annually Budgeted Amount" which would show how much is left to spend within a budgeted category. Randy asked about Antique Show proceeds. Apparently, they are still being calculated and should be out next week. Jen said she thought the *Hola Familia* budget lines 4.200.035 and 5.200.055 needed adjusting. We received an electric bill for \$4,000, when they are normally only \$2,000. Was a bill missed? We do seem to use more electricity than other religious organizations in the area. Jamie will be asked to address this at next month's meeting in his building and grounds report. Mother La Rae expressed concern over the amount going to postage. Dorren suggested emailing quarterly pledge updates rather than mailing them, as they are a frequent mailing. Motion to accept the treasurer's report/budget was moved, accepted and passed unanimously.

E. Search Committee Report (Penny Longo)

Eight priests have applied for the position. Two candidates have been reviewed. Jim Steen says he has two more and will send their information to us when they have been vetted.

Two have been ruled out. The plan is that once all applications have been received, the committee will send them each a letter asking them to complete the essay questions. Phone interviews with 6-7 candidates are expected follow that over the course of a week. The committee will then select 2-3 candidates to bring in for a weekend. They will spend Saturday with the committee, and celebrate a Eucharist with them. Sunday morning they are invited to attend church. There was some discussion, without conclusion, as to whether they would wear robes then or not. After the interviews, a decision will be reached and an invitation extended. The committee hopes to have someone here by September. Mother LaRae said she thought the process could be done before then, perhaps with an invitation sent in July and someone here by August. The report was accepted unanimously.

F. Team Reports

Parish Life (Jen Enriquez)

The committee would like to use our facility for two weeks to host a Spanish language summer camp on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. It would be the same weeks as our regular English language Vacation Bible School on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Students would have the option to attend both programs. Jim pointed out that neighbors may complain about cars dropping off or picking up children, and that this should be discussed with the LaGrange police. In the past most Vacation Bible Schools were in the afternoon, sometimes held at the Western Springs church. Randy suggested talking to the youth group to see if they could help staff the camp/school during the day. Jen suggested an email vote on the subject when more details have been ironed out. This motion was passed unanimously.

Facilities (Jamie Workman)

A project under discussion is the replacement of more than a dozen sidewalk squares around the church, which are in poor condition. Jamie spoke with the village about their replacement program. There is a cost sharing option, or we pay all costs. This report was received from Jamie Workman, in absentia, with thanks from the vestry. Penny asked if there was a liability issue if we pay to replace the squares. Bill said he thought not because we pay and the village dictates the contractor through their program.

Stewardship/Finance (Cindy Motl)

Cindy referred everyone to the mailing about the THRIVE program available through the diocese. She said we are in a period of renewal in our parish, and closer participation with the diocese makes sense. It works by sending a team of four people to this training (Jen, Andy, Cindy and the new Priest in Charge), and then they share the training with others in the parish upon their return. Reference was made to p. 2 of the THRIVE email, particularly the Covenant Statement on Learning which explained the program succinctly. The application must be made by October and the class starts in January 2015. The cost is \$500 for the team. The question was asked what account this should come from, or should we fundraise for it? Bill said there is already an anticipated budget shortfall of \$5,000. Also, we were trying to get away from "nickel

and diming” approaches to fundraising. Cindy asked if a special donation could be given in honor of her grand-daughter’s upcoming baptism, and put towards this purpose. The consensus was yes, it could. Jim asked if we were committing the new Priest in Charge to this. The answer is yes, and this should be added to search information as it shows a strong relationship with the diocese. Motion to present a 2015 THRIVE applications for our parish was made and accepted unanimously.

Education (Andy and Jim)

As Andy stated in the report, the nursery is the only area of concern as not many people are using the service. Jen asked if the child care givers could do any administrative work like sorting or stuffing papers while they were waiting. Jim asked if this was a conflict of mission. Mother la Rae said if administration work was done, the child care givers would need supervision, so not a solution. Age range of children in nursery care versus using the soft space was discussed. The point was made that ushers should be made aware of this so they can steer people with children in the right direction. Mother La Rae said there is a trend towards having a big nursery with one professionally trained (M Ed) person who runs a Montessori-like program, with aides to assist. This is a way of growing a parish.

Jim spoke about the Adult Education program, or lack of one at this time. He said attendance and leadership are issues. He suggested a divorce program, and Mother La Rae said that is one among many issues about family that could be discussed. Jim said it is hard to find a time to give the program. Dorren suggested a moderated online discussion hosted by the parish website might get around the scheduling problem. Everyone agreed promoting the programs is key.

Liturgy (Mother LaRae)

There was discussion in the fall about changing service times, but no decision was made. She wished to raise the subject again. The problem she has heard of with the current schedule is that people feel rushed between the 8am and 9:30am services. Moving the 9:30 service to 10:00am would alleviate the time pressure. Deacon Bill had studied attendance figures, and noted that we lost 17 people last summer when there was only one service. A motion to discuss having two services this summer, with the option to continue into the fall was made and accepted.

It was asked, when would Sunday School be held if we went to two services? Mother LaRae said that was up to Ben Nesler and the Education Committee. Someone noted it was historically hard to get Sunday school teachers if they cannot get to a service themselves, without spending the whole morning at church. The statistics were questioned, since we do not know all the reasons why those 17 people did not attend last summer. Jim pointed out that older parishioners have medical trouble dealing with the heat in our un-air conditioned space, which may be a reason. It was asked if the service could be moved to Deadman Hall which is air conditioned if the temperature was too high. Apparently, this policy is already in place. Another person asked how much two services cost us. Apparently, it is about \$100 a week. Mother LaRae pointed out that it is part of our purpose to offer these services. We could just

have Morning Prayer at the 8am service for those who have to do other things that morning, and have the full service at ten.

The motion from the committee on the Liturgy that we change the times of the Sunday services to 8AM and 10AM beginning Sunday, May 25 (Memorial Day weekend), and that we keep these service times for the fall after review mid-summer with the new rector was put forward. The motion was passed.

Old Business

Bill said four names were needed to give police as emergency contacts if they needed access to the church. Bill Hoekwater, Randy Valenta, Tony Enriquez and Jamie Workman were selected. Mother LaRae said there have been several occasions where the building has been found unlocked in the morning. Lock up procedures must be enforced. Jamie will be asked to go over this procedure with everyone involved.

New Business

We need to start a capital campaign for upkeep of the facilities. Bill Hoekwater and Mike McCrohan are starting a committee on this, with Rob Ekroth, Jamie Workman, Cindy Motl and others. It will start in late 2014 or early 2015. Mother LaRae said we should consider bringing in a professional fundraiser. Mike Bolton and Jeff Ammons are working on grants for this effort.