

Vestry of Emmanuel Church
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2014

Present: Mother La Rae, Jim Beyer, Sam Brenneman, Andy Dolliff, Rob Ekroth, Jen Enriquez, Bill Hoekwater, Penny Longo, Cindy Motl, Randy Valenta, Jamie Workman, Linda Brongel, George Tarusek, Michael Moon, (Dorren Gertsen- Briand, secretary)

Absent: David Shallow

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm with Mother LaRae presiding. It started with reading a meditation by Sr. Jane Chittister, and a prayer from the *Womens' Uncommon Prayer*.

The April minutes were discussed. The question arose of whether individual names should be associated with comments and votes. This led to a discussion of the purpose of minutes in the historical record of an institution, and legally. It was decided that names could be associated with comments during discussion, but that votes should represent an institutional voice so only a count would be taken, and a record of whether a motion passed or failed. With this amendment, and one about the number of people attending THRIVE being four not five, the April minutes were accepted.

Several people noted that Mr Ekroth's first name is Rob, not Bob, as has been noted in the agenda.

Penny Longo has a new email, which is pwlongo132@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Report (Linda)

Church Windows is "hinky", it works one day and not the next.

The April budget shows \$23,000 more going out than coming in. We are OK, thanks to endowment and antique show proceeds, but the situation is tense. Income is close to expectation. Significance expenses include:

- the copier lease and paying for copies. Bill suggested we look at the contract. Jamie asked if there were individual logins for using the copier. Mother LaRae said there is only one login for everyone. The question was raised about a scan versus a copy, and how they each are counted. Mother La Rae will discuss the possibility of individual logins for everyone with Eva, and post a sign above the copier about the cost of copies.
- The "MISC visa" fund is a parking spot, or slush fund, for Linda as she sorts things out. The funds there will be attributed properly in future.
- Mother La Rae pointed out that robe cleaning is a new expense. It did not used to be done on a regular basis and the robes were... in need. They are now cleaned on a seasonal schedule. This

line item also paid for the cleaning of the curtains behind the altar, which is an unusual expense as well.

- The music budget was a big discussion, which is why George was present.
 - Music tuning and maintenance – not a monthly expense, but seasonal. The organ has been tuned before Christmas, Easter and for the Ferris Chorale performance. There was also one \$200 charge when two keys got stuck due to the cold. Mother La Rae confirmed tuning usually happens when the weather changes.
 - When George started, he was asked generally, “What do you need for music” in the budget. At the time, he thought of sheet music and seasonal musicians. It was a guess. His learning curve has made him realize that his estimate did not include substitutes for the four weekends he has off a year. Also not included in George’s budget estimate was the fact that our church’s music library is a wonderful representation of 1920s music, but not much more recent. We need to update the music library. Cindy said this should be remembered when we get to the stewardship campaign. George started the idea of the choir singing for birthdays as a way to raise funds to do things like buy new music or replace robes. However, we no longer allow special funds. All money raised goes to general operating, which in turn tries to answer needs across the spectrum. The question was raised about how this is the same or different from asking for flower money at Christmas or Easter, or supporting the youth group. Mother La Rae said that flowers are challenging to budget as we have to order before we know how much money is available to pay for them. Budget-wise, flowers are actually the same as music, and Cindy said we should not ask for special donations for them anymore. Mother La Rae agreed we need more transparency about this policy. Bill said the youth group is different because they are not supported by the church in any other way (as the music is) so they can ask for donations at the annual meeting brunch, etc. Mother La Rae said that historically the Easter and Christmas music budgets have been approved by the vestry, and the priest can override this. Does money raised by the choir then go to the choir? Mother La Rae said yes. George was also given permission to hire subs for his holidays and the Christmas musicians, up to \$600. It was also pointed out that subs do not have to be organists. Pianists or other musicians would be acceptable. There are also some musical talents among the congregation that might be asked to help on occasion.
 - George expressed some frustration with his efforts to carry on the children’s music program. Attendance at after church practices has dwindled to two regulars. Jamie said it is hard on the kids to practice after service because they have already been here since 9am. Andy suggested Mary’s trick of playing music with the kids at the beginning of Sunday school. George would need to discuss this with the Education Committee, as the time of Sunday School has not been set for the fall.
- Linda said another unexpected budget item was the cost of natural gas doubling. We also paid property and casualty insurance, and workman’s compensation this quarter.

Mother La Rae thanked Linda and Larry for all their efforts on the budget and adapting to Church Windows recently. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. It passed unanimously.

Team Reports

Parish Life/Outreach (Jen, Penny, David)

- Run will be held in the morning to oblige the Village. Lots of details ironed out.
- October ECW event added to the calendar. It is a diocese-wide gathering and will be held here.
- We will try coffee hour will be between services in the summer, rather than afterwards.

Facilities (Jamie)

- We spent money on snow removal this winter that was not budgeted.
- We need six figure dollars to do what needs to be done. We cannot borrow money without talking to the diocese. Why repair the organ if the roof will still drip on it? Priorities. Big items are the roof, stair step masonry cracks, and others.
- Nothing has been done in the past month except painting steps because a policeman fell and someone missed the step into the sacristy.
- Has a quote for replacing the concrete bumpers in the parking lot.
- Knock box being installed for keys to allow fire department emergency access.
- Fidel replaced all the casters on folding chair carts which had started scratching the new wooden floor.
- Children's garden is up and running.

Stewardship/Finance (Rob, Cindy)

- TENS conference about building stewardship will be held Saturday, June 7th at Emory University in Atlanta. Have to sign up by this Thursday. Susan Galletti, Jim Beyer and Cindy Mottl are going. Can the church offer a scholarship to Jen Vince so she can attend as well? Her background in fund raising would be a valuable addition to our future stewardship efforts. Tough when we are struggling, but Jim said the Vestry should set priorities and without stewardship we will be nothing. With some discussion about where the money might come from (adult education or stewardship) the motion was made to offer up to \$800 to Jen and \$750 to two other parishioners who would attend. Total of \$1550. The motion was passed unanimously.

Liturgy (Mother La Rae)

- Working on supply priests for July and August. Susan Gerow has agreed to cover the first three weeks. Jim Steen is getting us a list of other possibilities. A supply priest costs \$75 for Wednesdays and \$200 on Sundays.
- Preparing a handoff package for new priest-in-charge.

- Deacon and Verger cannot do communion from reserve sacrament supply unless it is an emergency (e.g. the priest is dead!)
- Mother La Rae wants someone to meet with staff Tuesday mornings, or at some regular time convenient, to facilitate communication between staff and vestry until the new priest arrives. This is to prevent the wardens from being overloaded with concerns as they were during the previous interval. Jen Enriquez volunteered.
- Fidel gets blood out of a turnip for us with all his efforts around here! Thank you.

Education (Jim, Andy, Sam)

- Need to contact Vicki Garvey about keeping Gods Children Safe. Bill will do this.
- The following resolution was made in response to Bishop Lee's request for support of our Sudanese fellows:

Resolution

- Whereas: Emmanuel is a parish within the Diocese of Chicago,*
- And Whereas: The Diocese of Chicago has a sister diocese relationship with the Diocese of Renk – South Sudan*
- And Whereas: Emmanuel has a history of caring for the Parish of St. John, \ Melut, South Sudan*
- And Whereas: Bishop Lee has called to all of the Diocese's attention the extreme need caused by both civil war within South Sudan and war with North Sudan*
- And whereas: It is our desire to affirm the ministry of our diocese and bishops*
Now therefor let it be resolved:
- *That Emmanuel joins itself with the ministry of the diocese and bishop in South Sudan*
 - *That we will, within our means and consistent with our ability, seek to create a fund raising activity with proceeds flowing to the Diocese for its ministry in South Sudan*
 - *That we commend to the parish all activities of the Diocese designed to support the bishop's ministry supporting the Diocese of Renk.*
 - *Finally that our prayers are for peace in South Sudan, and for resolution of the conflict.*

The resolution was passed unanimously and will be sent to Bishop Lee, as well as printed in the bulletin and Enews. There may be a fundraiser for this effort in the future.

Sr. Warden Report (Bill)

Judy Staiano holiday plans.

Jr. Warden Report (Randy)

David E. Weaver Memorial Fund. Motion to accept committee consisting of Jamie Workman, Stephanie Morse, Judy La Rose, Stanley Jasiak, Linda Brongel, and Randy Valenta was made and passed. There is \$3,724 to grant this year. The Sunday nearest June 20th (June 22nd this year) is the collection for the fund.

Old Business

Lock up procedure has been reinforced.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 with a closing prayer.