

Minutes of the Vestry
St. Mark's Church Capitol Hill
May 18, 2008
Adams Room
(Approved June 29, 2008)

Present:

<i>Clergy:</i>	Paul Roberts Abernathy, Rector Kay Johnson, Interim Associate Rector
<i>Wardens:</i>	Louise Walsh, Senior Warden; Jim Michael, Junior Warden
<i>Vestry:</i>	Kenn Allen, Doris Burton, Joe Calizo, Don Mosher, Bruce Sherman, Mary Lee Watts
<i>Register:</i>	Susan Sedgewick
<i>Human</i>	
<i>Resources:</i>	Ed Cousins
<i>Co-Counsel:</i>	Michael Knipe

Absent:

<i>Treasurer:</i>	Kathryn Powers
<i>Manciple:</i>	Jack Richards
<i>Vestry:</i>	Susan Thompson-Hoffman, Kristen Hartke
<i>Counsel:</i>	Rosemary Harold

The Rector convened the meeting at 1:15. Doris Burton offered the opening prayer. .

Agenda Items:

Shrine Mont Content Team Update

The Rector announced the Endowment Committee approved using \$7500 from the Endowment Fund for funding an outside facilitator for Shrine Mont and a follow up session to be held at St Mark's. The church used these funds to contract with Miss Harriett Lewis to lead the Shrine Mont effort and the follow-up workshop to be scheduled in July. The latter event is primarily for those who could not attend the Shrine Mont weekend, but those who attended Shrine Mont will be invited as well.

Paul Abernathy, Louise Walsh, and the Shrine Mont Content Team (Charlie Rupp, Loretta Veney, and Priscilla Mendenhall) have spent considerable amounts of fruitful time with Miss Harris, orienting her to St. Mark's ethos and style. Paul expressed his hope that these two events will help us build the capacity for having the difficult conversations that are necessary for issues such as racial reconciliation.

Vestry members were asked to be present at Shrine Mont and consider volunteering to be a facilitator at Shrine Mont.

Otis Gaddis Discernment Year Progress Report

As required by a December 2007 memorandum from the Rector to Otis Gaddis, Otis submitted a written report (attachment A) and met with the Vestry to discuss

his progress in his discernment year. To meet a relatively new requirement in the revised diocesan discernment process, Otis has become an active participant at St. Phillip's in Anacostia. In this year Otis also has maintained regular periodic contact with Paul Abernathy and diocesan staff. The Vestry was pleased and supportive of Otis in how he was meeting various challenges.

Preparing for Theologian in Residence December 2008

Louise Walsh reported that she and Doris Burton have had discussions about how to best raise funds for supporting the month-long Advent season visit of Tony and Anne Barnard—both honorary members of St. Mark's. Tony, now retired as Canon Theologian of Lichfield Cathedral, will be providing lectures and sermons. Anne will also be active contributing from her base of experience which includes working with women in Malaysia. The funding need is estimated at \$10,000. The Arts Council has contributed \$1,000 towards this goal. The fund raising proposal, once fleshed out, will be submitted to the Vestry for approval.

Energy Policy Actions

Jim Michael reported actions he is considering taking to (1) reduce the ever increasing electricity bill and (2) reduce the amount of electricity we use. Jim is reviewing entering into a contract with an alternative electricity provider rather maintain our current arrangement with PEPCO. (He noted Baxter House and Church utilities could be handled differently as their issues are different.) To reduce our energy consumption, he is proposing we use Compact Florescent lights wherever feasible. This may require some fixtures to be replaced. In addition, he reported that he is developing a strategy for replacing our current air conditioning system.

Vestry Reports and Votes:

Request to Raise Funds for Books

Kenn Allen submitted an application to raise funds from members of his confirmation class for a memorial to Dee Hahn-Rollins. The following was moved, seconded and approved.

The Vestry hereby approves the request of the 1997 Spring Confirmation Class to raise approximately \$1,500 to purchase 100 copies of "Lift Every Voice and Sing II" as a memorial to Dee Hahn-Rollins.

In the discussion of this motion, Jim Michael raised the issue of how to handle these books as storage space is a premium at St Mark's. During this discussion Paul Abernathy questioned the need for the Book of Common Prayer being placed in every kneeler's book rack. Discussions are to take place with the Worship co-conveners on this topic. Doris Burton noted there are other hymnals that are available and the parish might like to use from time to time.

Susan Sedgewick noted that this is the first request to the Vestry for fundraising permission since the new policy was adopted last November. She will obtain the required signature from the Treasurer and file it according to the policy requirements.

Human Resources Officer Report

Ed Cousins discussed his efforts to identify key parameters for determining appropriate clergy compensation. He noted that he looked at this issue in the early 1990s, but the issue is much more complex now than it was then. He suggested that finding comparable positions difficult and perhaps he should also consider other professions that demand similar skills required of a Rector. Ed solicited Vestry members input to the draft he is preparing for their consideration. Members were to provide him input by May 21 with a target for Vestry action at its June meeting. During the discussion Ed explained the difference between a cost of living increase, which is not considered a raise in compensation.

Treasurer's Report

The Vestry voted to approve the report received by title in the absence of the Treasurer. The report stated that the finance committee will meet several times in June and July to consider current budget anomalies as well as potential cash flow problems in 2009 unless pledges increase to keep up with the increasing expenses. Jim Michael explained the utility costs were running ahead of budgeted amounts. This was due to rate increases higher than what was projected when the budget was developed. Doris Burton asked a budget related question (to be relayed to the Treasurer)-- Are we starting to save for future sabbaticals?

Register's Report

The motion to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2008 meeting as read carried.

Appointments

Louise Walsh announced the Vestry e-Vote on the following motion carried.

That Mary Thuell be appointed to the Vestry of St. Mark's effective August 1, 2008 to serve the remaining months of Kathy Gerhard's term on the Vestry. Her term is to expire April 19, 2009.

Louise Walsh put forward the names of people to serve as Assistant Treasurers consistent with the "Basic Financial Resolution" dated April 1992. The motion to approve the following to serve as indicated carried.

**Pete Carlson be appointed to serve as Assistant Treasurer,
Peg Allen as Assistant Treasurer for Payments, and
Tom Hoppin as Assistant Treasurer for Off-Budget Accounts.**

Junior Warden Report

Jim Michael expressed his appreciation to Jack Richards, Manciple who stood in for him while he was away.

What's new, what's working, what needs attention, who needs acknowledgment

- Paul Abernathy discussed the circumstances of Mr. Donald Gator's arrest on church premises. Actions were assigned to alert those responsible for various activities using church space as to what they should do if this individual should appear.
- Don Mosher expressed concern that Vestry Greeter cart is appropriately stocked.
- Paul Abernathy provided a run down of activities, "Celebrating with Paul" for his 30-20-10 anniversaries, which are respectively his Ordination, period of service in Washington, DC, and lastly his length of service as Rector of St. Mark's)
- Mary Lee Watts announced the Outreach Board is recruiting new members. They are hoping to schedule a special outreach service for October.
- Louise Walsh alerted the Vestry to a meeting with pillar heads to be scheduled for late June.
- David Dill's decision to accept a position in Boston rather than return to his sponsoring diocese was discussed. Paul Abernathy reported that an appropriate position was not available in the Washington Diocese at this time. Paul also reported that Mary Alex Dill was prepared to pursue a Master in Social Work degree at Catholic University but she will now do that at Boston College.

Joe Calizo offered the closing prayer. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Sedgewick
Register

RE: Otis Gaddis report

Excerpt From The Rector's Dec 2007 memorandum re Otis Gaddis process:

The Discernment Year (purpose of which is to assist Otis in deepening his ability to articulate his sense of his call in community different from his home congregation)

Otis will:

- Become active participant in life/ministry of another community.
- Meet monthly with Discernment Committee composed of parishioners of that congregation.
- Meet monthly with Rector of that congregation with whom ministry plan for year will be developed (to be submitted in writing to ODVM).
- Meet semi-annually with Bishop.
- **Present regular oral and written updates of his process to St. Mark's Vestry.**

From Otis Gaddis:

Dear St. Mark's Vestry,

Thanks for inviting me back to offer an update on where and how I am in the discernment process. Allow me to quickly summarize what is happening in three areas: 1) the parish I am at and my work there; 2) my recent conversation with the Bishop; 3) some of the spiritual issues I am working on.

1) The parish I am at and my work there:

I am doing my intern year at St Philip's in Anacostia (on the corner of 14th and U streets SE). The church's population is older (most are over 65, many retirees from government jobs like firefighter or federal agencies) small, about 40-50 people on a Sunday. Most of the parishioners are related to each other or have been going to the church for a long time. Although it is a small congregation they have are trying to do work in the community and take care of each other. It is very clear that they have created a virtual family among themselves and support each other through hard times. The ministry I have joined for my primary work is called the Joshua Project. The goal of the Joshua Project is to create a mentoring program for children in the community. Since joining, I have contributed by helping to jump start their visioning process. On this team, I am learning how to offer my services to provide ideas and structure so that people feel the ball is moving while remaining a facilitator.

The other part of my process at St. Philip's is the discernment committee meetings. These meeting are meant to prepare me for my conversations with the Commission on Ministry later this year. My committee consists of two men and one woman from St Philip's and one woman from the diocese's commission on ministry. We have had two meetings so far. The most remarkable thing to report is that we had an intense conversation, in our second meeting, about the fact that I am gay and that I believe that it is an asset to my future ministry. Although it was a difficult conversation, it appears that I handled it well.

2) My recent conversation with the Bishop:

I met with the bishop on April 8. It seems that he has a high regard for me and feel that I have a lot to offer the Church. He asked me to think about where he thought God was calling me right now as an ordained person. I am processing this question in preparation for our next meeting in July.

3) Some of the spiritual issues I am working on:

One of the themes I am focusing on during this period is the idea of integration. First I am working on the integration of my intellectual/analytical/verbal side of my personality with my intuitive/visceral/nonverbal side. It is clear to me that I rely on both of these sides of my life but that I am lot more comfortable with the former rather than the latter. I am trying to pay more attention to how my intuition intersects with my prayer life. I am also trying to be more aware of how my intuition affects my interactions with others particularly in pastoral like contexts.