

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VESTRY OF
SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

January 16, 2013

A regular meeting of the Vestry of Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church was held January 16, 2013.

Vestry members in attendance were: Van Sheets, Senior Warden, Tony Briggie, Junior Warden; Christine Ashmore, Cindy Carter, Cliff Miercort, Stephanie Pearson, Grady Schleier, Nancy Skochdopole, Tom Stewart, Stewart Thomas, Donell Wiggins, Scott Wilson, and Sheryl Wylie. Auxiliary members attending were Matt Waller, Treasurer, Robert Wilson, Chancellor, John Wilson, Stewardship Chair, Giffen Weinmann, representing the Foundation, and Margaret Spellings, Clerk. Guests included James Diaz.

The Rector called the meeting to order at 4:35pm.

Minutes of the Prior Meeting

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes of the December 12, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

Ministry Report - Music Ministry

James Diaz gave a report on the Music Ministry at St. Michael. James began by noting that many people are actively involved in the music ministry at St. Michael and help him in many ways.

The Music Ministry currently includes an adult choir, a new seasonal women's choir, and a children's choir. The adult choir is doing very well, and has grown 12.5% in the last 12 months. James decided to form a new seasonal choir, because not everyone has time to attend regular rehearsals for the adult choir. James has developed a rehearsal video that can play on a cell phone so that choir members can review the music at home. The seasonal women's choir will have four concerts a year. Finally, the children's choir is made up of children from grade 1 to about grade 5. The children rehearse Sundays during the 10:00 hour and sing at the Discovery Mass every 6-8 weeks. The children seem to be enjoying the choir.

Next, James presented the details of a proposal to fund a concert series called "Saint Michael Presents". As background, James noted that two concerts have been recently held at St. Michael. The concert for the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and the 2012 Christmas concert drew over 900 attendees each. James estimated that only about 25% of attendees were church members, meaning that the concerts are a significant outreach opportunity.

Specifically, James proposed that the concert series would consist of 2 (perhaps 3) concerts per year. The Music Ministry will not ask for funds from the church operating budget. Instead, James will seek other funding sources, including seed money from the SMAA Foundation with the remainder from other solicitations. A formal motion regarding funding for the concert series will be considered later in the meeting of the Vestry.

Fr. Dannals noted that our Music Ministry was of a very high quality. This concert series would provide an opportunity to hear high quality music in a unique setting.

Finance Report

Matt Waller reviewed the Income Statement as of December 31, 2012. The Income Statement contains the final comparisons of budgeted revenues and expenses compared to the actual results for the year. At year end, actual revenues exceeded budget by \$220,000. Expenses were also less than budgeted expenses by about \$28,000, with the result that SMAA had a surplus of \$61,755 at year end as opposed to a projected loss.

Next, Matt reported that an undesignated gift had been made to the Church in the amount of \$45,000. The Finance Committee recommends that it be contributed to the Foundation's Maintenance Reserve Fund. A motion was made and seconded that \$45,000 be contributed to the Foundation's Maintenance Reserve Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Second, Matt discussed the amount of funds in the Koinonia Fund. The Koinonia Fund was established for the needs of the congregation in the area of pastoral care. The Fund has grown more than was anticipated. The Finance Committee recommended that \$16,500 be disbursed from the Fund to be used in the areas of Pastoral Care and Congregational Care. A motion was made and seconded that \$16,500 be disbursed from the Fund to be used in the area of Pastoral Care and Congregational Care. The motion passed unanimously.

Third, Matt discussed the budget for the Columbarium expansion project. Currently, total cash and pledges exceed total estimated expenses by \$74,000. The Finance Committee voted to proceed with the Columbarium project. No vote from the Vestry is needed.

Saint Michael and All Angels Foundation of Dallas Grant Applications

Giffen Weinmann informed the Vestry that, as of September 30, 2012, the SMAA Foundation had approximately \$330,000 in income available for grants. However, the majority of that amount was held in funds that are restricted for specific purposes. The funds available for grants that were held in unrestricted funds or funds with limited restrictions totaled approximately \$150,000 as of September 30, 2012. Assuming that all of the grant applications (approximately \$101,000) considered by the Vestry today are also approved by the Foundation board, and taking into account expected income since September 30, 2012, unrestricted funds or funds with limited restrictions are expected to be reduced to approximately \$75,000. Total annual income available for grants from all funds is currently approximately \$145,000, of which approximately \$90,000 is attributable to unrestricted funds and funds with limited restrictions.

Grant Request 1: Concert Series/Music Ministry. This is a request to provide “seed” start-up funding to launch “Saint Michael Presents”: a parish-based music concert series that would have broad appeal to the wider community. A primary purpose of this new ministry is to provide another doorway into the Saint Michael mission and ministry for non-parishioners and members alike. The request is for \$25,000 to fund a concert series that will be developed by the concert series committee in conjunction with the Rector. The concert series committee intends to pursue alternative methods of funding so that the series would be self-sustaining after 3 years.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the \$25,000 grant for the concert series, with the stipulation that the funds would come from the Crow Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Grant Request 2: Farmers Market. This is a request for \$30,000 to provide a second year of start-up funds for the Farmers Market at Saint Michael. The funds will allow the Farmers Market to operate for a full May-October season.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the \$30,000 grant for the Farmers Market. The motion passed unanimously.

Grant Request 3: Lay Ministry Engagement. The Lay Ministry Engagement challenge is to assist parishioners in discovering their gifts, offering them to the Lord and equipping them for service. The Director of Lay Ministry Engagement will partner with staff, clergy and lay leaders to develop this relatively new ministry area. This grant request is for \$39,375, representing 75% of the salary and benefits for the Director’s position. In 2012, the Foundation funded 100% of the Director’s salary. It is anticipated that the amount requested from the Foundation in 2014 will decrease to 50% of the Director’s salary.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the grant of \$39,375 for Lay Ministry Engagement, with the stipulation that the funds would come from the Crow Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Grant Request 4: Parish Nurse Program. The Pastoral Care ministry requests \$8,500 to provide funds for the Parish Nurse program. Specifically, the funds would pay for malpractice insurance premiums for six Parish Nurses (\$1,500), and the annual salary for a Parish Nurse Administrator (\$7,000).

Matt informed the Vestry that the Parish Nurse program had not used \$2,782 available from its 2012 grant, because of the timing of the Administrator’s salary and better pricing that was obtained for the program.

A motion was made and seconded to return the unused \$2,782 to the Foundation, and to approve the grant of \$8,500 for the Parish Nurse Program. The motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship Report

John Wilson gave the report of the Stewardship Committee regarding the stewardship campaign. John was pleased to report that the campaign has raised over \$4,400,000 million so far from 1,054 pledges. The committee is in the middle of a "last call" campaign to reach out to parishioners who have given in the past but not given in this year's campaign.

John thanked Lisa and Rob Baber, and Lowell Duncan, for the great job they have done with coordinating volunteers, communications and other aspects of the stewardship campaign.

Building & Grounds Report

Tom Stewart reported that construction on the Columbarium will begin in February and is expected to last through July. After construction begins, the handicapped parking area near the south lanai will not be available. Instead, a designated senior parking area will be established near the north lanai. Parts of the sanctuary will be temporarily affected by the construction.

Effie McCullough will lead the stained glass committee, which will look at existing designs and consider which designs will be included in the project.

Finally, work on the new playground should begin within the next 30-45 days.

Junior Warden's Report

Tony Briggie informed the Vestry that he, Kimberly and Tom are going to consider the facility use policy again to determine whether and to what extent they would recommend allowing the use of the Church facility for non-profit and also profit activities.

Senior Warden's Report

Van Sheets announced the nominees to serve on the Vestry for a three year term beginning in 2013. They are John Gorman, Kathy Jenevein, Sallie Plummer, Randy Rekerdres, and Matt Waller.

The nominees for Delegates to the 2013 Diocesan Convention are: Marla Briggie, Ralph Cousins, Blake Hull, Bill Johnson, James Kerr, John McFarland, Sr., William McIntyre, Clifford Miercort, Kyle Moore, Liz Oliphant, Jim Riggert, Phil Ritter, Charles Sartain, Van Sheets, J.C. Snead, Chuck Stewart, Tom Stewart, Jr., Paul Talbot, Donell Wiggins, and Jim Wiley, Jr. From these nominees, ten will be chosen as delegates and ten as alternates.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of nominees for the Vestry and the Delegates to the Convention. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion approving February 8 as the record date for determining the members of the parish eligible to vote at the annual meeting, with the annual meeting to be held on February 24, passed unanimously.

The Senior and Junior Wardens have appointed Gayle Kesinger as Senior Election Judge in accordance with SMAA Election Procedures.

Rector's Report

Fr. Dannals reported that the Christmas/Advent season was great at St. Michael. Attendance at Advent/Christmas/Epiphany services and special programs were back up to 2007-8 levels. The event at Jubilee was oversubscribed. The Children and Youth team did amazing work. Finally, the collection for the Christmas plate and Heart of Giving reached \$100,000. The Christmas plate was distributed as follows: 1/3 to Heifer International, 1/3 to Hurricane Sandy relief through the Episcopal Relief Endowment, and 1/3 to the North Texas Food Bank.

The Christian Formation team has been working for over a year on a presentation regarding all aspects of Christian Formation and recommendations for improvement. The presentation is expected in the spring. Fr. Dannals is very excited about what the staff has done in this area.

The Rector also asked each ministry team (including staff/lay leadership/vestry member/connector) to work collectively to consider and complete a Strategic Conversation on two questions: First, in the next 12-24 months, what initiatives will you advance in your area to increase community-building at Saint Michael? And second, in the next 12-24 months, what initiatives will you advance in your area to increase participation at Saint Michael? The responses from all teams will be compiled and considered at the next Vestry retreat.


Finally, the Rector announced that he has nominated Cliff Miercort to be Senior Warden for 2013-2014. The new Vestry will choose the Junior Warden.

Other Business

Sheryl Wylie reported that the Connect Team was planning a series of Neighborhood Nights. These events will be purely fellowship in the home of a parishioner on Sunday nights.

There being no further business, the Rector adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Vestry will be held on February 20, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,


Margaret Spellings
Clerk