

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
May 26, 2010

Present: Anne Brightwell, Butch Bush, Joe Clements, Curt Collier, Dee Forester, Matthew Hicks, Sean Hogan, Vince Howard, Matt Humphrey, Sandy Jarrett, Marty Kemp, Mary Moore, Father Robert Salamone, Father Edwin Beckham

Absent: Chuck Galis, Nancy McDuff, Lisa Yarn

The meeting was called to order by Father Robert at 7:02 pm.

Vince gave the devotion based on scripture and passages from Living Buddha, Living Christ. The Vestry was asked to ponder the ideas that true love means making yourself available to others and that the energy of the Holy Spirit makes one truly alive. One must take time to breathe and meditate on God's gifts.

There were no visitors or addition to the agenda.

Information/Discussion Items

Cooking Team

Marty asked the Vestry to consider whether they should serve as a cooking team for Wednesday Night Suppers in 2010-11. Dee noted there were 8 teams this year. Anne suggested each Vestry should recommit to having a team year by year. Fr. Robert asked the Vestry to ponder the question. A decision will be made at the June meeting.

Day School Vision Statement

Fr. Robert and Butch proposed that an Ad Hoc Committee be formed to create a vision statement for the Emmanuel Episcopal Day School (EEDS). The Vestry needs to look at EEDS: how it fits into Emmanuel's mission and what its standing is to the parish and to the Vestry. The parish needs to have a connection to the Day School. Questions to be considered are whether it serves the whole community or a particular group of people and whether Emmanuel is open to creating spaces for the poor to be among us. (The cost is currently about \$2500/year.) The Vestry should create a vision and goals for EEDS. The EEDS Board is a mix of parishioners and non-members.

Butch suggested that excess funds from the Day School go toward offering scholarships to more children who can not afford the tuition. Mary noted that some parents can not send their children because they need all-day care.

The ultimate question from Fr. Robert is whether EEDS is a ministry of Emmanuel and do the parish and Vestry buy into it.

Planning Committee Update

Butch reported that about 150 people gave input to Houser Walker Architects (HW) and HW has come back to the Building Committee twice. They have developed modifications and have done

an outstanding job. The James Company will be developing the financial plan to cover the job. Phase 1 for HW will cost about \$7,800,000. The Building Committee asked HW to make some modifications to cut costs. HW hopes to have all the plans and have everything approved by August 15 to give to the James Company. Fred Stoltz will visit June 23 and will meet with Marty, Joe, and Butch. The issue of building a new Day School requires defining the mission. Sean asked if the previous long- and short-range planning included a study of the Day School. Fr. Robert stated that the Day School had not been carefully addressed.

Garland Construction Projects

Sean reported that Garland had completed all except cleaning up from the work under the office building, painting the ladder into the bell tower, and bracing the east vestibule.

Garland has completed the following:

- Replaced and repaired the leaning columns in the Potter's House. One column in the storage area was not replaced. The angle is slight and approval has been given to leave it as is. The inspector suggested Emmanuel request a refund for this work that was not done.
- Cut a crawl space on the east side of the office building.
- Completed framing repair on the east vestibule. Repair to the masonry is postponed.
- Added an additional steel post underneath the vesting room.
- Repaired the ladder to the bell tower.
- Stabilized the platform for the interior HVAC units in the attic of the Day School.

Junior Warden's Report

Dee urged Vestry members to attend the luncheon on Sunday, May 31, after the 10:30 service to honor the Formation teachers, the graduates in the parish, and the Faithful Servant Award recipients, Hal and Betty Cofer. She thanked the Welcome Committee and the Kemp family for the parish picnic. She suggested the Vestry take note of people they could ask to join them in the activities of the church.

Senior Warden's Report

Butch reported that he and Fr. Robert had met with Jim Reese of the Atlanta Union Mission Thrift House (Potter's House) and agreed to an 18-month go forward lease at the current rate until October 2011.

For Vestry Forums, he would like each Vestry member to take leadership for certain areas and make the forum topic-driven, giving the parishioners the opportunity to ask questions about their issues of concern. Butch will be presenting information about the Cornerstone Society.

Butch commended the three-program series from the Health Ministry on end of life issues.

The counting of the offering from the plate each Sunday will be the responsibility of the junior and senior wardens and will take place in Matthew Hicks' office. They will call on Vestry substitutes if needed. Beginning May 31, the Vestry member who receives the offering from the

altar will not put it in the safe, but give it to Butch and Dee. The Vestry member will still be responsible for locking the buildings after the 10:30 service.

Butch said that a parishioner had commended the Vestry for adding a youth member to the Vestry and suggested consideration of also adding an elderly (over 70) member. Vince pointed out that all Vestry meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. Mary also said that the bylaws change was meant to reduce the size of the Vestry.

Rector's Report

Fr. Robert feels the Vestry should have time together for more than business sessions. He asked for suggestions for ways to add spiritual development together. Having been entrusted as servant leaders of the Emmanuel community, the Vestry must determine how they can keep unified as a Vestry, grounded in faith, and supportive of each other as decisions are made.

Financial Report

Butch reported for Nancy that Emmanuel was over in expended funds by around \$4100 in April. If all budget allocations for 2010 are spent, the budget would be overspent by approximately \$53,000. The Finance Committee is working on a recommendation for modifications of the 2010 budget. Fr. Robert pointed out that if you draw people by offering programs, you can not cut funds and still have the programs. The operating expenses are what must be considered for reduction when possible. Butch observed that the answer to the budget issues is on the income side and that requires education of the parish.

Action Items

Fr. Robert noted that Emmanuel is a One Parish meaning 0.7% of the yearly operating income has been sent to Episcopal Relief and Development, The Ark, Samaritan Counseling Center, and Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation.

Motion: Vince moved that the Vestry approve continuing to support the causes listed above from the MEMC line in the budget.

The motion was seconded by Curt and passed.

Butch referred to the EEDS budget totaling \$17,148. The budget was recommended to the Vestry by the Finance Committee.

Motion: Marty moved to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the EEDS proposed budget.

Matthew suggested waiting until the June meeting to approve the budget after the Ad Hoc Study Committee has presented its proposal for the vision and mission statements for the Day School. The motion was withdrawn. The budget will be included on the Vestry agenda for June or July.

Matthew is working with a local bank to get a loan for CASA to renovate their cottage. In the land lease from Emmanuel, a limit was set on the amount CASA could spend on renovations because if they default, Emmanuel will buy out the cost of the renovations. The language in the lease needs to be changed for CASA to secure a loan.

Motion: Matthew moved,

With regard to clause 9.7 ©, the portion of the first sentence reading:

“...an appraisal of the fair market value of the improvements...”

Should be revised to read:

“...an appraisal of the contribution to market value attributable to the improvements assuming typical fee-simple ownership interest in the property as a whole...”

The cap will be increased to \$240k.

This revision along with the revision of the “rehab costs” to \$240k should result in a value of no less than \$240k.

The motion was seconded by Vince and passed.

Motion: Vince moved to approve the \$40,883 awarded to the six entities listed in the MEMC report for the first quarter.

The motion was seconded by Matt and passed.

Motion: Butch moved to approve Johnny Terrell as church treasurer for a one year appointment.

The motion was seconded by Joe and passed.

Closing Items

Fr. Robert appointed Matthew, Dee, Matt, and Sean as the Ad Hoc Committee to study and present a proposal for the vision and mission of the Day School by the August Vestry meeting at the latest.

Mary announced that the MEMC is trying to give parish groups the opportunity to sign up for particular Saturdays for work on the Habitat House. She asked the Vestry to respond to Lisa’s email request that they look at the dates they have available. At the June Vestry meeting the Vestry will decide on a couple of dates that could be given to Erik Wells as he schedules work teams.

Good of the Order

Vince gave thanks for the help and prayers for the week Emmanuel hosted IHN.

Matthew said he had been elected to serve on the board of Jubilee Partners, the organization for assisting refugees in assimilating into the American culture and in finding jobs and homes.

Edwin thanked Matthew and the MEMC for their work in securing a van for Emmanuel. He also reported two successful gatherings in May of the Emmanuel Episcopal Young Adults. They will be doing a book study this summer.

Curt gave thanks to the Kemps for hosting another very successful parish picnic.

Fr. Edwin closed with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Next Meeting: June 23, 2010
Devotion: Joe Clements

Respectfully submitted by Lee Albright, Clerk of the Vestry

Approved by: Anne Brightwell, Butch Bush, Joe Clements, Curt Collier, Dee Forester, Chuck Galis, Matthew Hicks, Sean Hogan, Vince Howard, Matt Humphrey, Sandy Jarrett, Marty Kemp, Nancy McDuff, Mary Moore, Lisa Yarn