

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Montclair, New Jersey

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 08 April, 2014

Present: The Rev. John A. Mennell, Martha Thalheimer, John Wyatt, Penny A. Vance, Walter K. Booker, Wendell Bristol, Sonja Cole, Jill Eden, Tom Laws, Mike Peinovich, Jim Short, Roxie Zeek

Absent: Anne Mockridge, Jinni Rock-Bailey

We were called to order at 7:35pm when Rev. Mennell opened the meeting with a prayer. He began by leading the Vestry in acknowledging the service of its transitioning members: Martha Thalheimer, Sonja Cole, Jill Eden, Tom Laws and Anne Mockridge.

Opening Items

Rev. Mennell then led us in a Bible Study and Discernment exercise by asking two questions that led to a vigorous discussion: Where do we see/experience Jesus in our St. Luke's community? Where don't we see/experience Him here with us? Roxie Zeek then led the group in a Visioning exercise by asking for responses to the question, Why do we come to (this) church?, which also elicited a hearty dialogue. We finished by listening to a reading of the Great Commission from the Gospel of Matthew. This segment of the meeting concluded with the (continuing) Executive Committee members (Mennell, Wyatt, Vance and Booker) agreeing to take a look at our current structure, issues and opportunities and then to recommend the "buckets" that encapsulate the major themes of the Vestry's work going forward.

Warden's Report

Rector's Report

Rev. Mennell then re-raised the Rectory usage issue and noted that due to a fortunate development in his spouse's professional life, their need of the Rectory for habitation will likely decrease soon. This led to brief discussion about the usage of the Rectory and a more spirited and developed one about Rev. Mennell's ongoing presence at St. Luke's and accessibility, with Vestry member Jim Short expressing a concern should this decrease and requesting greater clarity on the issue. Mr. Short also suggested that a strategic plan be developed that would address the issue of the most effective "use of (the entire) campus" of the church, of which the Rectory is a part.

Treasurer's Report

Operations Committee Report

Making Disciples of Jesus

Stewardship/Membership

Developing Lay Leadership

Staffing for Growth While Balancing Budget

Shop Transition

Facilities and Rectory Utilization and Care

Communicating Effectively

Marketing for Growth

Capital Campaign

Planned Giving Campaign

Holy Trinity West Orange

Alternate Funding Sources

Jim Short led a Compline service and we ended the meeting after a prayer, adjourning by acclamation at 9:25pm.