

**St. Martin's-in-the-Fields**  
**Vestry Minutes**  
**August 16, 2005**

Present: Father Michael Bullock, Ann Braithwaite, Warren Darby, Steve Johnson, Bosie McElveen, Chuck Meehan, Libby Nicholson, Neil Rashley, Jeanne Saylor, Tom Stepp, Garfield Stuart, Freddy Vang. Absent: Paul Palmer

**Opening Prayer and Call to Order**

- Michael Bullock called the meeting to order with a prayer.
- The vestry accepted the minutes for the July 21, 2005 meeting.

**Roof Report**

- Freddy Vang reported that he has given David a punch list of those things that still need repair. The job has taken 3 months, and David was warned that the remaining \$35,000 may end up being paid to a company that can finish the job.
- The church's computer system of ten is antiquated. English's is virtually on "life support." The cost of \$1,000 per computer will be incurred over a period of time, and Freddy suggested incremental repair.

**Rector's Report**

- The Rev. Chuck Petit, MD: Chuck Petit is to be referred to as assisting priest and will be introduced Sunday when he will preach.
- Second Priest Search: The search continues. So far we have sent letters to the A team. Have heard from 5, 4 of whom have taken jobs and one of whom is staying where he is. We're about halfway through the A team at this point.
- Staff Evaluations Completed: Michael has finished staff evaluations and was well pleased with how the evaluation went. He expressed pride in the staff and announced that Cathy Kelly is moving to NC with her husband. Warren, Betsy, Cathy will interview Wendy Durham to fill her position.
- Website Transition: A letter of thanks was sent to Alfred Turner and copied to the vestry, and Michael sent Alfred a gift of \$100. Kim Buchanan will be taking over hosting of the site.
- Anonymous Gift Request: Notification has been sent to each vestry member of \$100,000 gift. Michael reminded the vestry to give him suggestions for using the money by next month.

- Crayton School Outreach Discussion: This will start tomorrow night at the barbecue dinner where the ETV documentary “Corridor of Shame” will be shown. Michael said that he is deeply committed to local, deep, lasting outreach.
- Diocesan Ministry: Michael is working with Bishop Henderson on the Commission on Ministry to outline the ordination process and has been one of the examining chaplains in the diocese. This is part of his work in the larger diocese. He has been nominated for DEC (Diocesan Ecumenical Council).
- Canvass Group: The dates for the parish canvass are October 16 through 30.
- Nominating Committee for Vestry: The nominating committee will be formed by the “upper classmen” to recruit people for service on the vestry of 2008. Michael stressed the importance of leadership as the prime quality for membership on vestry.
- Buildings and Grounds Survey and “Roadmap”: Need to decide on survey items and determine long- and short-term planning for the buildings. How will St. Martin’s design buildings and grounds? Do we need to think of its being a function of our outreach? Perhaps a five-day-per-week preschool? What are architectural considerations? Some of the characteristics of our buildings project a negative impression.
- Parish Survey Status: Dr. Teal has been sick and may need to be contacted. Neil reported that she gave a figure of \$3,000. Will put the issue on the Exec committee agenda. Michael will be gone over Labor Day and Rev. Petit will cover him in his absence from September 1-7. When asked how things were going with him, Michael reported that he anticipates good things.

### **Warden’s Report**

- John Crowe Bequest: Neil reported that John Crowe will be leaving a large sum of money to the church. This has raised a few issues, none of which require immediate resolution. The concern is appropriate handling of large gifts. John specified that the vestry should use it as needed. Neil asked the vestry to think about this as the Executive Committee will be meeting about how to manage such gifts.
- Mutual Ministry Evaluation Plan: Neil set the context for focusing on two areas rather than trying to finish all areas on one night and one Saturday. Tom Stepp reiterated the importance of developing consensus among the Board. We will start with worship and as we talk, we will talk about the role of laity in worship. First thing we need to do is to assess how we are doing. Michael reminded us that this is part of the rudder we have talked about establishing over the past two years. Garfield Stuart said that any evaluation usually includes goals and timeline

and suggested that we need to do this for strategic planning. Otherwise, there's a chance of missing something. Tom said we should focus on any given aspect of ministry at the present and evaluate ourselves on where we are currently rather than on where we want to be.

## **Finances**

Warren Darby, Treasurer, reported that pledges are coming in and may result in a surplus.

## **Vestry Discussion: MUTUAL MINISTRY EVALUATION**

- Focus #1: Worship and Formation
  - A. Integrity of Worship
  - B. Connection of Worship to Our Community
- Steve commented that there is no problem with the integrity but that the style is more formal than he desires. Tom asked Michael to remark about the issue. Michael commented that he feels compelled to uphold the prayer book. He wants us to have a goal of being broad and deep. The question is how does what is unfamiliar to us become familiar. Maybe we need to expand our repertoire so that we can ask the question about how to broaden and deepen the experience.

In 6 months, we will meet to set up goals that will be a foundation for the next vestry.

Garfield commented that some of the ways we have offered ministry in the past are music, signing for the hearing impaired, and foreign language.

Neil said that we should consider ways we can appeal to the young adults.

Freddy said that the key is diversity. We have the ability to expand to others.

Neil proposed that we conclude discussion for the evening and strive to complete three topics during the next session. The vestry agreed and decided to meet one hour earlier (at 6:00 p.m.) for the September 20 meeting.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Braithwaite (for Paul Palmer, Vestry Clerk)