

## Minutes of the January 2008 Meeting of the Vestry

Opening Prayer: Fr. Clements offered the opening prayers. Present were Alexis Dorf, Linda Lloyd, Roy Bickley, Fr. Clements, Mary Anne Carley, Tom Schindler, Martha Nesbitt, and Geoff Brown. Absent were Jim Conzo, Cheryl Duntz, and Martha Baer. Bob Reid was a guest at the meeting.

Approval of the October meeting minutes. The October minutes had not been approved due to the lack of a report from our Delegate to Convention. In view of the fact that the minutes of Convention are on the Diocesan website, Linda moved and Alexis seconded a motion that these minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the November meeting minutes. Linda moved and Alexis seconded a motion that these minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously. Note that there was no December meeting of the Vestry as bad weather on the designated meeting date resulted in lack of a quorum for the meeting.

### Reports:

Treasurer's Report- The report of the Treasurer and related discussions and motions consumed much of the meeting.

Martha Nesbitt moved, and Alexis seconded a motion that, **“Whereas the Rev. Dr. Robert P. Clements is employed as a minister of the Gospel by Trinity Church Lime Rock, Lakeville, CT, which does not provide a residence for him, the Vestry resolves that of the total compensation of \$79,897 to be paid to the Rev. Dr. Clements during 2008, that \$18,750 be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.”** The motion passed unanimously.

There was no discussion of the December 2007 results. A discussion of the 2008 budget ensued. Several line items on the draft budget submitted were adjusted, including small increases in the lines for Christian Education, Pastoral Care, and Stewardship/Evangelism, as well as a reduction on the revenue side in projected pledge income, partially offset by increases in revenue anticipated from a music benefit, a general benefit (or series of small benefits), and Lime Rock Park parking. The conclusion of the Vestry was that it was appropriate to reflect the resultant projected deficit on the published 2008 budget. Martha moved, and Linda seconded a motion to approve the budget as adjusted for presentation to the Annual Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob Reid then provided a report on the deliberations of the Finance Committee with regard to Reid Field. The committee agreed that the two objectives for the field, in priority order, were (1) Community Contribution to the larger tri-state area, and (2)

Modest income for Trinity Church. He noted that suggestions for the use of the field are welcome and encouraged. He noted that the principal suggestion under discussion to date involved some form of affordable housing initiative, although he also noted that any initiative of this type would implicitly require a commitment on the part of the Parish to maintain and support it on an ongoing basis – something that might be difficult for the Parish to commit to in view of our limited numbers. With regard to the housing alternative for Reid Field use, he referred to the book written by parishioner Kitty Benedict and former parishioner Tom Brokaw on this subject. Bob noted that there had been no conclusion that affordable housing was the inevitable use of the field, and stressed the importance of all of us being open to suggestions from the Parish about other alternatives. Fr. Clements noted that it was important to keep space for the soccer field and for parking cars for Lime Rock Park, for Crescendo and other concerts, and for other purposes. He had noted earlier in the meeting that Lime Rock Park has been assured that whatever alternative use we choose will not adversely affect their use of the field for parking at a level they used the field for this year.

Wardens Report: Linda provided a brief Wardens' Report in which she noted that the Jaguar Club of America is in discussions with us to use a portion of Reid Field as well as Walker Hall on Memorial Day weekend for a reception for 200 Jaguar enthusiasts.

Buildings & Grounds: Geoff reported that insulation of the Rectory attic has now been completed, but that the maze of wires and pipes in the basement makes Jeff Silvernale reluctant to undertake that portion of the project. He conveyed the recommendation from Judy Brown, Buildings and Grounds Chair, that the next portion of the project involve replacing individual windows to increase energy efficiency.

Continuing Business: There were no items discussed under continuing business.

New Business:

With the anticipated absence this year of the Lloyds, staffing the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was discussed. Linda will plan the affair, which will be staffed by Jane Canfield, Cheryl Duntz, Alice Tweed, and Alexis Dorf. There will be no Ash Wednesday macaroni supper this year. Disappointing turnouts in recent years for this event as well as too many volunteer-intensive activities in a short period of time were the reasons given for this decision.

Cynthia Conklin has volunteered to produce two hearty soups for the Annual Meeting luncheon next week, and, with Alice Tweed's team producing bread and salad, the Parish should be well fed for the occasion.

The following slate was presented to the Vestry for approval:

Officers:

Senior Warden: Linda Lloyd

Junior Warden: Roy Bickley

Treasurer: Martha Nesbitt

Clerk: Geoff Brown

Vestry members: Tom Schindler, Martha Baer, Mary Anne Carley, Al Dorf, Robert Reid, and Jane Canfield

Convention Delegates: Tom Schindler, with Geoff Brown as Alternate

Deanery Representative: Mary Anne Carley

The slate was approved for submission to the Parish at the Annual Meeting. The Vestry thanked the outgoing members, Cheryl Duntz and Jim Conzo, for their dedication and service, and particularly thanked Alexis Dorf for her nine years as a vestry member, clerk, and Junior Warden.

Ratification of Annual Meeting Agenda: Roy moved, and Linda seconded a motion that the proposed Agenda for the Annual Meeting be ratified. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The following points were raised at this point with regard to the planned discussion of use of Reid Field: (1) that it was important to recapture the history of the field's purchase and the intent of the parish at that time, (2) that the importance of getting suggestions from the parish cannot be overstated, and (3) that whatever uses we ultimately conclude are appropriate for the field, we must bear in mind the human resources that the parish will need to muster both to bring the project to fruition and to ensure that its future is carefully managed and maintained.

Vicar's Report: Following a brief discussion of staff issues, the Vicar recommended that the Vestry hold a one day retreat.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be held on February 17.

Benediction: Fr. Clements closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Brown

Clerk of the Vestry