

September 23, 2008
Meeting of the Vestry of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church
7:00 PM in the Chapel
Next meeting: October 28, 2008

Vestry members present:

Jessica Anderson, Susan Abernethy, Elizabeth Boileau, AnneMarie Hoos, David Kincaid, Rick Storrs

Leesy Taggart, the Treasurer was also present

INVOCATION

I. APPROVAL OF August 26, 2008 MINUTES

August 26, 2008 minutes approved.

II. DIOCESAN CONVENTION UPDATE

Tim Smith, one of our Deanery representatives, reported about the upcoming Diocesan Convention (October 17-18) and about Deanery activities. The Deanery are representatives from each church in the Diocese that meet quarterly to move the work of the Diocese along from Diocesan Convention to Diocesan Convention. They also they bring agenda items to the Convention.

Initially, Tim spoke about the activities of the Alameda Deanery, they are holding a series of conversations about Race & Religion. The conversations will be held weekly starting in October running to November 5th at Oakland churches. Speakers include Right Reverend Steven Charleston, Reverend Doctor Monrelle Williams, Reverend Doctor John Rawlinson, Reverend David Liu and the filmmaker Katrina Browne.

Tim spoke about the adoption of safe church practices, summarized in a handbook for parishes about standards, policies, and procedures for clergy and lay leader conduct which the Diocese adopted in 2003. The handbook can be viewed on the Diocesan website.

Initially St Gregory's church would have to appoint a person to conduct a Safe Church Self Audit. The appointee would learn the audit system, and fill out the form. The form would go to a firm contracted by the Diocese where it would be reviewed and filed. If there was any "blip" on the form it would be returned to the Rector.

A committee would be formed including a Vestry member and the Rector in order to conduct background checks of all paid staff and volunteers. The Diocese will pick up the cost for the Background checks conducted before December 31, 2008. The background checks need to include all the people with building codes. Paul will oversee the background checks. In addition to background checks a number of procedures would be initiated regarding, for example, Sunday School teachers, support staff and alcohol. A committee was proposed of David Margolies, Katie Danforth and Paul Fromberg.

Convention business for 2008 includes adopting a budget (includes \$50,000 deficit which is ignored because generally there is a surplus year to year), and adopting six resolutions;

- Non-English speaking supply clergy
- Marriage equity
- Stewardship of renewable energy sources
- Moratorium on executions in California
- Use of Lectionary from 1979 Book of Common Prayer
- Adoption of policies based on scientific research

In addition there will other resolutions, some administrative and some constitutional changes to the canons.

Tim Smith, presently the President of the Diocesan Council, also announced he was running for Executive Council, there he will be serving with Paul Fromberg. Cheryl Hendrickson will be working with Area Ministries.

III. FINANCE REPORT

Leesy Taggart reported on the August financials; there was money in the checking account at the end of August after bills were paid. At mid-September there was a \$15,000 deficit in the account and bills were current. This level of deficit was anticipated last spring, and covered by funds available in the Vestry Designated Account (\$49K). By the end of September to mid October the financial picture should improve, and we seem to be on track to end the year on budget.

Alissa Worthing has been sending out Stewardship packets, 60-70 so far, with a good rate of return. We have only experienced a few reduced pledges, but anticipate more if the economy deteriorates. Many people are increasing, but in smaller amounts than last year.

On annual fundraising, we are making excellent progress toward our budgeted goal of \$30,000. Any gifts we receive beyond amounts needed to balance the budget will go toward supporting the Building Fund. As the building ages, we expect to see more capital repair costs, and need to put money aside for them.

A survey of rates by assorted but similar venues to St. Gregory's for concerts, weddings and other events revealed that St Gregory's is below market, so there will be an increase of rental rates in the coming year.

VI. FACILITIES UPDATE

Based on the two bids received, it was moved, seconded and passed that we accept the anticipated bid of Mr. Kim's for \$3,500 to replace the administration building roof. (See below) The kitchen oven is not working, the repair company, down on the peninsula will have to be contacted.

Lights in the sanctuary will have to be replaced.

On October 1, 2008, as a result of an E-Vote (a vote by email by Vestry members as stipulated in the Bylaws) it was Moved, Seconded and Passed to hire Crown Roofing immediately to replace the roof per their submitted bid. This will cost \$4,250.

IV. UPDATE ON FALL FUNDRAISERS

There will be a total of three house parties one each at the home of Suzanne Palmer, Jessica Anderson and David Kincaid. Vestry members will lead off the fundraising by sending their checks to the Treasurer, Leesy Taggart.

V. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

AnneMarie Hoos reported on the Nyssen News format change. Deb Styer is working on design; there is software question about operating with Adobe, which is causing some delay. Presently the revision team is working on standardizing a number of pages.

VI. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Susan Abernethy reported that Jessica Anderson sponsored new member Lucia Ballard. Judith Tucker and Lynn Park sponsored new members Shauna & Frank Poong. Susan will talk with Paul Fromberg and Sara Miles about a comprehensive year-long plan for members' luncheons and will develop a budget proposal to support them.

VII. LEARNING & SERVICE REPORT

Rick Storrs reported that there were 85 folks registered for the Retreat the minimum required to secure the entire Bishop's Ranch for the Retreat. There will be workshops in the pavilion, a dance workshop given by Carla de Sola and a yoga workshop given by Dina H. The social hour (theme is Pirates) will be also in the pavilion.

Ellen Schell gave a presentation about GAIA, Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance, on September 21st at St. Gregory's. There were 12-15 people in attendance.

Next month's community luncheon is hosted by the Choir. November's community luncheon hosted by the Deacons, and will include Community Participation in the fall fundraiser.

VIII. CLERGY REPORT (JESSICA)

Discussion was about the recent denouncement of Prop 8 by nine Californian Bishops.

Vestry could take the opportunity to add the name of St. Gregory's church to a growing list of organizations supporting No on 8, the ban on same sex marriage. This is in response to fundamental churches that have circulated petitions to support voting Yes on Prop 8.

Moved, Seconded and Passed: In keeping with our Parish Profile and after much discussion the Vestry voted to list the Church of St. Gregory as a faith based organization endorsing No on Prop 8, in order to support marriage equality for all.

CLOSING PRAYER

With a recognition of jobs well done the

**** meeting adjourned ****