

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Oakland

## Vestry Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Chapter Room

### I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

The Rev. Mauricio Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 in the Chapter Room.

### II. Attendees

The following Vestry members were present: Rufus Berry, Lane Ceric, Claudette Ford, Paula Hawthorn, Maura Lane, Phil Merrick, Sarah Smith and The Rev. Mauricio Wilson.

Absent: Trudy Hsu.

Guests/Observers: Teresa Lindberg; Parish Administrator

### III. Additions to the Agenda

Update on corporate filing status.

### IV. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

May 24, 2011 Minutes – Lane Ceric and Maura Lane were at the May meeting, but not listed on the minutes.

**VOTE** Claudette moved that the May minutes be accepted with this correction; Maura seconded. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

### V. Old Business

Parish Life Committee: Fr. Wilson spoke with Layla Rogers, who said she would be interested in being on the committee. He also spoke to Jim Kadleck about it. The first event would be 9/18 Homecoming. He will follow up with them.

100/141 Anniversaries: Leslie Campbell submitted a proposal of 10 hours at \$50/hr to manage the planning for the celebration. Phil asked if Leslie would come up with the concept. Fr. Wilson said she'd work with us and provide ideas. She'll manage the project working with our volunteers.

**VOTE** Maura Lane moved that Leslie's proposal (\$500 for 10 hrs of project management for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building) be accepted; Claudette seconded. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Weddings: Leslie Campbell also met with the Executive Committee to discuss how to increase wedding bookings. She suggested more publicity via TheKnot.com and HereComesTheGuide.com.

**VOTE** Paula moved that St. Paul's advertise on TheKnot.com now to take advantage of their special offer; Maura seconded. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Advertising on HereComesTheGuide.com will be considered for 2012.

Ministry Action Plan: The initial meetings went well. Five areas of focus came forward, so there will be 5 more meetings scheduled to discuss these areas: Spiritual Growth & Education; Fellowship & Family Ministries; Music; Outreach; and Facilities. These additional meetings will flesh out these focus areas with actions and goals. The goals are to have timelines, measurements to goal, etc. Maura said one of the objections that may be encountered is that this is taking too long – or the perception that it is taking too long. The timeline is such so as to allow people to build ownership over the areas. We'll be solidifying the plan for the goals on a 1-year, 3-year and 5-year basis.

Vestry Appointment: Vestry members put forth several people to be approached during the summer by the Nominating Committee.

## VI. New Business

Flags: 2 years ago, Paula researched flags when an issue was made over the flying of the rainbow flag during Pride Month. Some of the suggestions of flying other flags at other times conflicted with US flag etiquette such as “no flags of another nation may fly on the same pole as the US Flag.” She found an African Liberation banner for Black History month, the UN Peace Flag in August, etc. She volunteered to purchase the flags and meet with folks about which flags to fly, but no one took her up on it. Claudette asked if the idea was to desensitize the flying of the Pride flag. Fr. Wilson asked the head of the African-Anglican Commission if there was a flag that represented the African-American struggle, but he didn't know of any.

Lane asked if the church really wanted to become like a “flag of the month” club. Rufus feels that no flag should be flown, especially one that could potentially stop someone from coming.

Fr. Wilson said that becoming an Oasis/Integrity parish means that LGBTQ issues and inclusion is a focus/ministry for St. Paul's, so that flying the rainbow flag reinforces that focus and ministry. Paula sees the flag as just another form of advertising that opens up a chance for dialogue. Rufus stated that he is okay with the display of the rainbow flag, just not flying it from the flagpole on top of the church.

Pacific Collegium (PC): 2 years ago the Vestry approved to have the PC as artist-in-residence for 1 year – it rolled over into 2 years without another vote. Fr. Wilson said it is very important that the Vestry approve it again as it entails free use of our space in exchange of singing Evensong. It is especially important as they work with children and they need to be fully insured and background checked. PC is not an entity of St. Paul's and we don't want anyone misperceive that it is. Fr. Wilson said that they must have a contract and fulfill the requirements in order to use the space. Our fiduciary responsibility is to ensure that we protect our assets. The agreement would be on a yearly basis. Does the Vestry want to continue to have them as artist-in-residence? Definition of artist-in-residence: someone who is allowed to use the facilities free of charge in exchange for participating in various worship services.

**VOTE** Phil moved that Pacific Collegium/Chapel College be artist-in-residence for 1 year as long as they adhere to the written agreement; Rufus seconded. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

## VII. School Report

The school met their \$1 million match. They will break ground in October for the construction of the metal gym. The Casa will also be converted into the new lower school library (which is currently on the mezzanine of 116 Montecito).

## VIII. Finance

Trudy is recovering at home from a medical issue. Nothing unusual in the statements other than the overage for the Good Friday event coupled with the shortfall in donations. The Vestry reviewed the financial statements during the meeting.

Teresa has been working with the Diocesan Corporate Counsel, Christopher Hayes, to untangle the issue with St. Paul's corporate filing with the State of California. In brief, each corporation registered with the State of California has a unique number. It appears that, when the 1929 Articles of Incorporation expired and the new 1985 Articles were submitted, the State assigned an incorrect corporate number to them. So our original number – the one we were using – expired and the new one belonged to another entity. No one realized it because the notification for the original number was being sent to the Seaton's old address and the notification for the new (wrong) number was going to the other corporation's address of record. At least that's what we think happened, as Mr. Hayes is still trying to unravel it. Upon his advice, St. Paul's paid the fees to update the Corporate Status of the wrong number. We now are awaiting Mr. Hayes to get back to us – Teresa follows up monthly with him.

## IX. Rector's Report

Late September/Early October Les Petits Chanteurs, a boy's choir from the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, will be in our Diocese. They will be staying with some of the families from the school, and will sing at the school's Friday Chapel on September 30.

On August 17, St. Paul's will host the Faith and LGBTQI Aging Conference presented by the Coalition of Welcoming Congregations in the Bay Area (of which St. Paul's is a member).

Our mortgage expires on 8/31/15. We'll need to renegotiate a new one before that date. We should also consider a new bank as well – one with more offerings, better hours and fewer fees. Lane will research Wells Fargo and see if there is someone we can speak with.

## X. Capital Campaign

The Vestry has been interviewing 3 campaign consultants (Sarah, Phil and Fr. Wilson attended all three interview).

Bloom Metz – Smallest of the three and only offering consultation via online/teleconference. Phil feels we need more hands-on support than this. Paula, Maura would give them a pass. Lane feels they don't have the depth and breadth of the others. The Vestry agreed not to consider this firm.

Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) – Phil was very inspired by them as was Lane. Lane likes the focus on discernment and that they are a part of the church. Felt that

their materials were good and full of transparency. Felt they would be with us all the way. Maura referred back to the packet for fee costs and thought that they were very expensive. Paula liked the idea about a long discernment to find out where people want to spend money; and really feels that going through this kind of discernment will help. The process wouldn't start until 2012 with the kickoff of the discernment in January 2012. Maura is concerned about the length of time all of this would take. Some people wonder why things haven't happened yet – they think that the rector search process created the ministry action plan. Sarah likes the ECF idea of building a collective vision, which is something we have a very hard time achieving at St. Paul's.

Klote – Phil felt the same way with Klote as he did with ECF. Need to ask more questions – what does the feasibility study cover? See if we can get a name of a specific consultant.

Narrowed down to Klote and ECF. Will get references. Will meet again on July 7 at 6 p.m.

XI. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Paula moved for the close of this meeting; Maura seconded. Passed with unanimous voice vote. Fr. Wilson led a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Teresa Lindberg