

2012 Annual Meeting Minutes

Reported by Opal Doerr
For the meeting on January 22, 2012

Opening Prayers – Fr. Jerry Thompson

Appointment of Secretary – Opal Doerr

Approval of 2011 Minutes

Dean Settle moved that we approve the minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Jonah Sirota. Motion Approved: All.

Further Comments from the Rector

Fr. Jerry shared some comments: expressed some hopes for SMOC for 2012.

- He expressed his hope that in 2012 SMOC parishioners would see continued growth in personal stewardship and gratitude with the result being a growing SMOC spiritual presence.
- He announced his personal commitment to additional work within the Lincoln community, specifically involvement with Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Ally (LGBTQA) programs and working to help re-connect Lincoln's interfaith leaders.
- He expressed great appreciation for SMOC staff that keep things ticking.

Report of Nominating Committee

A slate of three vestry candidates was presented – Nancy Benton-Brown, Jeanine Jewell, and Kevin Cole. Because Kate Maattala-Sirota has agreed to serve a junior warden, Sarah Fairchild was presented as the candidate complete Kate's vestry term.

Jim Karas will become senior warden and Kate Maattala-Sirota has agreed to serve as junior warden.

Nominations for vestry were opened. No additional candidates were nominated.

Connie Backus-Yoder moved nominations for the 2012 vestry candidates be closed. The motion was seconded by Todd Sneller. Motion Approved: All.

Andrea Nelson moved that all of the vestry candidates and the senior and junior wardens be accepted. The motion was seconded by Ray Lowther. Motion Approved: All.

Reports – *See Attached Reports:*

- Senior Warden
- Administrative Assistant
- Adult Formation
- Altar Guild
- Building & Grounds Committee
- Campus Ministry Committee
- Christian Education
- Clergy – Priest Associates
- Community Service Group
- Eucharistic Visitors

- Financial Advisory Committee
- Food Pantry
- Gathering Place
- Music
- Pastoral Care Committee
- Personnel
- Special Events Committee

Bob Kuzelka moved that the reports be accepted. The motion was seconded by Leroy Svec. Additional items were presented for the 2011 report:

- Lisa Sutton thanked Don Gray for the work he's done coordinating installation of the solar panels and the ongoing installation of new energy-efficient windows.
- Lisa also announce that the front garden will be rededicated as a children's garden.
- Todd Sneller thanked the families and individuals who are joining the acolyte and Eucharistic minister ministries.
- Pamela Starr asked the Campus Ministry committee how the comments gathered at focus groups was used. Without funding from the Diocese, how are we proceeding? Jonah Sirota's response included discussion about the new website, which originally began as a Campus Ministry effort, but which grew to include the whole SMOC website. Much of the Campus Ministry committee's energy was tied up with this project. Now that SMOC has a more accessible web presence, efforts will turn toward other outreach efforts, mostly without a high price tag: promoting existing offerings like SPACE and a quiet study area. With more volunteers, we could re-start the study lounge. Another way to assist this ministry is to Twitter and Facebook about SMOC activities in which you're involved. Social media like this is free and reaches students "where they're at."

Fr. Jerry summarized the financial changes effecting Campus Ministry activities. In past years, SMOC received as much as \$25,000 from the Diocese. In 2011, Campus outreach was funded through the Alleluia fund and much reduced. Donations for the the 2012 Alleluia Fund were so low no Diocesan support will be available. SMOC's 2012 budget includes \$4,000 – funds from us, the parishioners. This amount was determined as a result of the focus group input. Those funds will be used for SPACE, Big Red Welcome, and website maintenance. Jim Karas' summary of the focus group feedback will be posted on the website as well.

- Bob Kuzelka and Loris Purtzer praised the new website and encouraged everyone to use it. Fr. Jerry noted that the site designer, Amy Ebbka, has been providing ongoing assistance and training on a pro bono basis. Thank you, Amy!

The Clerk called the motion that was still pending – approval of the 2011 reports. All approved.

Fr. Jerry thanked everyone for their dedication to all of the ministries. He extended a special thanks to those who had completed their three-year vestry terms – Julee Lowe, Ray Lowther, and Doug Durham.

Treasurer's Report – Stephanie Hill

Stephanie Hill reported that 2011 was a busy year. Although we ended up \$1,810.60 in the red, there were extenuating circumstances. Stocks were donated to fund part of the solar panel expenses, but selling those stocks has proved to be complicated. While awaiting that sale, the General Fund was used to (temporarily) fund the completion of the solar panel

project. Happily, the stock situation appears to be cleared up now and Stephanie expects those sale funds to be available sometime in February 2012.

In 2011, SMOC was audited by IRS. The only error found was actually IRS's error.

Almost all of the Allington Fund was used to pay for energy-efficient windows in the lounge. The kitchen and three office windows will be replaced as well, for which additional funds are being raised.

The Elevator fund was begun – see further information as part of Bob Kuzelka's presentation (see below).

Doug Durham was unable to stay for the meeting, but Opal Doerr relayed his concern about the 2011 pledge fulfillment being low. Fr. Jerry responded that the lower amount reflected life changes that had happened to households – moving, job changes, etc. The changes made the households unable to fulfill their pledge.

Bob Kuzelka thanked Stephanie, Mark Musick, and the financial committee for their hard work on the 2012 budget.

Stephanie highlighted some key points in the 2012 budget:

- Salaries were increased by 3% – the first increase in several years.
- Health Insurance coverage for the Administrative Assistant is included. The Diocese mandated health insurance be provided for full-time staff by 2013. The vestry felt we should not wait until then.
- Campus Ministry activities are no longer funded through the Diocese. The \$4,000 in the budget is from SMOC parishioners.
- Utility costs were not lowered in the budget, even though the solar panels and the new windows will certainly decrease these costs – we simply don't know how much the decrease will be. The 2013 budget should have these costs fully adjusted.
- The 2012 Diocesan Asking of \$30,000 is more than portion of the 2011 Asking that SMOC actually contributed – \$26,000 – but less than the Asking had been. Because “they” are “us” – all part of an extended church community – and the \$30,000 amount is less than the 2011 Asking (\$36,000), the vestry felt we should contribute the whole Asking.
- Faith contributions – what are they? Faith contributions are overpayment of pledges. In this case, they also include verbal commitments that have not been written out on a pledge card yet.

Stephanie thanked Mark Musick for assistance with the 2012 budget, Lisa Sutton for agreeing to serve as Treasurer for 2012, Jessica Freeman for agreeing to serve as Deputy Treasurer for 2012 and then as Treasurer in 2013. Stephanie also extended a special thank you to Denise Meredith who, as administrative assistant, handles much of the day to day financial operations.

Lisa Sutton thanked Stephanie Hill for serving SMOC as Treasurer through some exciting, challenging times.

Borrowing from CIP Funds

Bob Kuzelka presented information about the elevator project and the remainder of the window project. (See attachment.) SMOC has benefited from some very generous donations in the past year. As a result, we were able to install solar panels and, recently, begin the process of installing a small elevator – an improvement that will make the entire facility finally fully accessible. In response to the solar panel donation and to maintenance

concerns, the vestry committed to replacing the windows in the lounge using funds from the Allington Fund. Due to a contractor misunderstanding, windows were also custom-made for the kitchen. These are being stored in the kitchen and lounge for now. Upon consideration, the vestry decided to go ahead and replace the three north-facing windows in the offices as well. Some funding has already been raised and/or pledged for the window project, too. In summary, at this point, we need an additional \$9,000 for windows and \$16,000 for the elevator.

While funds will continue to be raised and grants applied for, it would be beneficial for both the elevator and window projects to proceed before all funds are raised. SMOC has a Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) with a balance of about \$84,000. The vestry proposes borrowing temporarily from the CIF, with the parishioners approval, to complete the elevator and window projects. The intent and plan is to reimburse the CIF as various fund raising efforts are completed.

Bob Kuzelka moved that permission be requested from the parish to borrow up to \$35,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund, with the amount borrowed to be repaid to the Capital Improvement Fund through ongoing fund raising efforts. The motion was seconded by Todd Sneller. All approved.

Fr. Jerry thanked Bob for his work with the elevator project and his energetic fund raising efforts. There was a suggestion that, after Ferd and Jo Anderson took the first elevator ride, Nathan Schulte, a former parishioner, be invited to visit and try it out.

Bob Kuzelka suggested the elevator be named the "Anderson Elevator" in appreciation for their generous donation and their long, ongoing support for SMOC.

Andrea Nelson suggested contacting former SMOC members to see if they would be interested in contributing as well.

In addition to monetary donations of any size, there will also be an opportunity for sweat equity as the current curate's office and part of the pantry storage area will need to be re-worked in preparation for elevator construction.

Other Topics

Andrea Nelson suggested the need for a smaller fund raising effort to address organ repairs identified in the Music Report. Kurt Knecht had not yet brought this to the vestry's attention. One option that the vestry probably will consider is setting up a maintenance fund for the organ. Like the HVAC fund, a small amount could be set aside regularly to save for the needed repairs. Donations for organ repairs could also be placed in this fund.

Loris Purtzer thanked the clergy for the 9/11 memorial service. As indicated by the broad participation by UNL and the community as a whole, the memorial was very much needed.

Loris also suggested the organ repair fund be in memorial to Burns Davis and offered the first contribution. Burns certainly loved both the organ and SMOC and we miss her.

Bob Stock asked about the status of the columbarium project. Bob Kuzelka had been looking into this project as well, but there hadn't been enough interest and commitment for the project to proceed. However, with a newly accessible lower level, other (perhaps better) locations will be possible. For example, the area at the end of the hall just outside the Lady Julian Chapel could be an option. If parishioners are interested, they should contact Bob.

Appointments – Fr. Jerry Thompson

Allison Cole was appointed as the Student Vestry member.

Election of Delegates and Alternates for Annual Council

The following parishioners have agreed to serve as delegates to Diocesan Council this year, on November 1 – 3, in Kearney: Ray Lowther, Jeanine Jewell, and John Flint. Connie Backus Yoder and Nancy Benton-Brown agreed to serve as alternate delegates – in case one of the three delegates cannot attend.

Berwyn Jones moved that the nominated delegates and alternative delegates be approved. Motion was seconded by Dean Settle. Motion Approved: All.

Out Going Warden's Remarks

Lyn Forester expressed her thanks for the opportunity to serve SMOC. She enjoyed meeting and working with parishioners and the vestry.

More Other Business

- Beth Hemmer spoke of a renewed commitment on her part to recycling and her hopes that she can encourage more recycling at SMOC.
- Beth also expressed an interest in re-starting Prayer Links. The opportunity to get to know fellow parishioners and their prayer needs had been much appreciated.
- Kim Thomason announced that she is reviving the SMOC canoe trip. She is looking at the weekend of July 6 – 8 for a camping & canoeing trip to the Niobrara River in the vicinity of Smith Falls. Interested parishioners should sign up on the list outside the office or contact Kim for further details.
- Fr. Jerry announced that 2011 was [2012 will be?] the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. There are plans underway for an evensong followed by a lecture to celebrate the occasion – perhaps on April 22. Further details will be available as the event approaches.
- Ray Lowther expressed appreciation for the Special Events Committee, especially Darrell Brown's artistic center pieces.

Presentation of Awards – Lisa Sutton

The Awards Committee selected Allison Cole and Margaret Fairchild as winners of the 2012 Extraordinary Service Award for their commitment to SMOC. Their early participation as children grew into active involvement as young adults which has inspired us all.

Annual Poem – Mark Musick

As always, an epic of consistently high quality! By acclaim, it will be posted to the website for all to enjoy!

Adjournment

Dean Settle moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Pamela Starr. Motion Approved: All.

Saint Marks' on the Campus Episcopal Church and Student Center
Report to Parish on Elevator and Windows Projects

January 22, 2012

Projects' Description and Cost Estimates

Windows – Install replacement all-weather windows in kitchen area (already on hand) and in the three north windows in office area. \$14,000.

Elevator – Install handicapped elevator (LULA) with two stops (main and lower levels) in part of the office area across the hall from the Sacristy Room – just west of the hall entry into nave. \$90,000 plus \$5,000 for contingency costs.

Cash and Pledges On Hand and Funds Needed

Windows - \$4,000 on hand (?), \$1,000 pledged (1), \$9,000 needed

Elevator - \$65,150 on hand (10), \$13,000 pledged (14), \$16,850 needed

Grant Applications Made

Four local foundations and Episcopal UTO for \$20,000 each. One made \$1,000 grant; One plus UTO still pending; Two rejected.

Sources for Remaining \$25,850

Follow up on remaining grant applications and look for additional grant sources. (goal \$5,000 to \$20,000)

Appeal to Parish members for gifts or pledges on January 22nd Annual Meeting and during services on February 5th. Pledges requested to be paid by April 1st. (goal \$5,000 to \$10,000)

Ask other parishes that are partners in our Food Pantry and other parish friends to contribute. (goal \$1,000 to \$2,000)

(Continues on reverse)

Request for Loan from Capitol Improvements Fund

To be authorized based upon approval by parish vote at the annual meeting. Vestry could borrow up to \$35,000 from this fund for project costs. Fund is currently at \$75,000. Pay back would be as grants, gifts and pledges are received. If by the 2013 annual meeting funds have not been collected for payback, the parish would be asked to authorize the needed funds to be used from the Capitol Improvement Fund. Both the loan and use of these funds require parish approval by vote.

For more information contact Bob Kuzelka

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*Thanks for your generous support of these improvements
to help our parish fulfill its ministries.*