

Church of the Apostles
Vestry Minutes
July 20th, 2007

Present: **Vicar, Liz Simmons**
 Senior Warden: Bill Krauss
 Junior Warden: Jon Skaug
 Vestry Members: Phyllis Petersen, Stan Newton, Jane Heffelman
 Clerk of the Vestry: Diann Neal
 Treasurer: Wil Harri
 Team Leaders: Barbara Garrity, Laurie Delmastro, Teri Martindale,

Absent: Sue Fehniger, Bryce Downing

The meeting was held at the lovely home of Kate and Bill Krauss. Our host and hostess served dinner and made the group comfortable and welcome. The Vestry thanks them for their hospitality and good food!

Agenda: **No agenda for this meeting.** Rather, a topic for discussion: Does the Church of the Apostles Vestry choose to take a position and write a statement concerning our position on the polity issues facing the Episcopal Church? Do we believe we should bow to the “demands” made by the Primates representing other Anglican provinces? Do we believe in our jurisdictional independence to make our own governing decisions?

Next Meeting: **August 18, 2007 @ 8 AM at the Church of the Apostles**

Sunday Lock up Schedule for August:

8/5/07	Sue Fehniger
8/12/07	Phyllis Petersen
8/19/07	Stan Newton
8/26/07	Jon Skaug

Discussion began @ 6:15 PM following a prayer. Liz began the discussion by reviewing the issues. Group consensus was apparent early in the discussion. The Vestry clearly chose to: #1) take a position on the issue of polity and #2) wanted to write a letter expressing our position as the Vestry for Church of the Apostles, for the Episcopal Church of the US. The position statement will be sent to Bishop Kirk, Bishop Kathryn, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Anglican House of Delegates.

The discussion was organized in review of #1 the **Core Issue** of governance decisions & polity, and #2 **Triggering Issues** (i.e.: Prayer Book changes, Female priests, and homosexuality).

Concerning the Core Issues: All present spoke to the issue. Remarks included but were not limited to: “Don’t withdraw”, “We do have the right to self determination”, “Remain a part of the community and communion”, “Stand fast, don’t bend”, “Love”.

As to the Triggering Issues, discussion included: “The Spirit of God is in everyone”, “There is room at the table for everyone”, “Inclusion is a basic teaching of Christ”, “Feeling superior to others is inappropriate”, “We embrace people of different positions”, “We embrace one another and do not label people. We tolerate many different views. We respect one another.”

Those present prayed to “Hear what the spirit is saying”. And, “We open our hearts to understand”. The group was prayerful and respectful.

These present discussed the tensions within our own parish. We have conservatives and progressive members. There is tension between the groups. However, we value and respect one another although we don’t always agree. We need to accept our differences. We value inclusively. That means that you may believe what you chose and we may differ. It is OK to differ as long as you are respectful of one another. One is not superior to the other.

Tension should not lead to conflict. We need to celebrate our differences with humility and respect. And, we need to live fully into the conflict and mutually share our thoughts so to understand and acknowledge our differences. Inclusively is a core value.

Standard requirements for leadership within the Church include: celebrate or in a stable relationship as role models for the community. Controversy exists within the definition of the standards.

Polity issue: The Windsor Report from the Anglican Communion is unprecedented. The position taken per the US Episcopal Church was done:

- Pray fully and thoughtfully
- Done properly per governance process
- Polity was followed properly
- Decision were somber and not made lightly

Ordination is open to all baptized people. Then, who is to say what has an ear to God.

Prior to dinner, discussion also included:

- Developing financial plan to manage monetary short falls prior to the sale of the land.
- Adding Apostles website to the signs for passers by. No decisions were made.

Respectfully submitted,
Diann Neal, Clerk of the Vestry
Church of the Apostles