

Church of the Apostles
Vestry Minutes
April 21, 2007

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

Absent: Sue Fehniger

Opening: The meeting opened at 8 AM with a prayer from Madre Liz and a round table sharing by all.

Agenda: Bill Krauss provided the agenda for the meeting & had emailed it earlier to all for review and additions. Bill had also sent out for a “prior to the meeting” review of: April Team Leaders Reports, Team Descriptions, Vestry Code, a copy of Apostles Values, and the “Pink Elephant” or “Apostle’s tensions” to be addressed per the Vestry. At this meeting, the proposed revisions to the Mission and Value Statements were handed out for review prior to next month’s Vestry meeting. Please, come prepared for discussion in May.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2007 @ 8 AM

Meeting Schedules: Third Saturday of each month at 8 AM. (Approx. 2-3 hrs in length.)

Sunday Lock up Schedule for March and April:

4/22/07	Laurie Delmastro
4/29/07	Diann Neal
5/6/07	Diann Neal
5/13/07	Jane Heffelman
5/20/07	Stan Newton
5/27/07	Phyllis Petersen
6/3/07	Wil Harri
6/10/07	Bryce Downing
6/17/07	
6/24/07	Laurie Delmastro

The meeting was lead by Bill Krauss. The following discussions took place:

Lock up includes: locking all doors and taking the garbage out.

Food Drive: Food Drive is going on this weekend for the Interfaith Council. Apostles is collecting donations at the Rancho Vistoso Safeway as well as at the church.

Parish Secretary has been hired part time for Monday through Friday, 9AM till 12 noon. She is Carrie Matynka. She starts new position April 30th.

Liz announced that she is beginning an adult educational series on Tues at 6:30 PM. The class is about the Anglican Community. It will last 6 weeks. It will focus on the difference of opinion within the members of the Communion. At the conclusion of the class, the group will make recommendations to our Vestry.

Bill lead a Vestry discussion: What do our values of “welcoming, honesty, and diversity” really mean to us?

“Welcoming” was discussed as: “accept as is”, hospitable to all, owe ness on us to welcome “them” (infers actively doing so), include others (new and old) in what is going on, and glad to see each other. An action plan might include: retreats, assimilation by inviting the “new” to join in activities, an orientation for new comers. The core of this responsibility belongs to the Membership Committee but we all are responsible to support these efforts. The effort must be intentional, have purpose, be a conscious effort, and is performed by choice. It is a form of communication with our congregation, new and old.

“Honesty”- discussion included: safe to be me, non-judgmental, a safe place to be, not having to conform to a mold or expected behavior, honest VS nice. Generally, creating an environment where it is safe to speak your beliefs.

“Diverse” – inclusive. We value people of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds, religions, sexual persuasion, etc.

Discussion #2: “Pink Elephant” – what does that mean in our discussions from last month? The “pink elephant” refers to the tensions within Apostles. As the church grows, we have a combination of beliefs in our congregation. The founders of Apostles have a strong focus on a progressive, non-traditional approach to our religion. Many of the new members come from a traditional background. The tension created needs to be spoken to and we need a “big tent” approach so to attempt to meet the expectations of our “whole”, if possible. If we are open, honest, and safe, we should be able to speak to this tension and communicate a planned approach. Also, the congregation needs to realize this comes from the Vestry, not from Liz. Liz works to meet our expectations, not visa versa. We need to reach conscientious on the scope of our approach. To date, we are doing this by offering: Rite I, Rite II, and the Progressive 10:30 service. Many of the newcomers may not understand the wide variety of beliefs existing at Apostles. This is truly diverse and inclusive, if we can accomplish it. People may chose not to join but we as a congregation

are welcoming to all, honest and open about our beliefs. Liz works to accomplish all these goals. This is “nurturing Devine connections” in action. The Anglican community is very diverse itself and this can be a great strength for us if we learn to manage the “tension” in a wholesome way. Clear and concise communication seems basic to this process. Over the year, Liz will work to begin this dialogue.

Action: Bill Krauss, Jon Skaug, and Liz Simmons will discuss how to communicate both our values and our tensions with the congregation, including how to stabilize the root changes that come about. Values of: welcoming, honest, and inclusive diversity will drive these efforts. The “gospel imperative” for teaching will provide order.

“Vestry Code of Conduct” was discussed next. It includes our reason for existence, our responsibilities to each other and to the Congregation, and our meeting process. The Code was accepted by consensus. Teams are encouraged to take these discussions forward, including a vision statement and code of conduct for each team.

Finance report was given by Stan Newton. Discussion ensued concerning the Treasurer position. Laurie Delmastro and Wil Harri, both being present, participated. The need for clear and concise policies and procedures was expressed. There are reoccurring expenses and non-reoccurring expenses. Non-reoccurring are usually “out of the ordinary course of business”. They may or may not be budgeted. The policies need to clearly state who has the authority to write a check and for which kinds of expenses. These policies need to be in writing. The audit process (CPA style) needs to be clearly stated. The process needs to be timely. It was suggested that an email be sent to all Vestry members and that response would be expected within 48 hours. This would be considered the voting process. At the end of 48 hours, the check would be written or not, as voted upon. A check request form will be used to assist with and manage this process. The suggested procedure agreed upon included the following:

- From zero to \$500 requires the Treasurer and Vicar approval
- \$500 to \$1000 requires a Vestry member approval + Treasurer and Vicar approval
- \$1001 or more requires an attempted poll of the whole Vestry with a minimum of 2 approvals from the 9 Vestry members + Treasurer and Vicar approval. Two signatures are required on all checks of \$1000 or more.

Land sale update: the sale of 7.32 acres facing Tangerine Road is moving forward for an apparent 2.1 million dollars. The completion of the sale will take 4-6 months. Meetings with Oro Valley are underway. We also need to plan proactive meetings with our neighbors concerning the sale. Public meetings will be scheduled and we are encouraged to attend to support the sale. Apostles’ loans total \$737,750.22. And, Apostles owes the diocese \$37,910. This totals \$775,660.62 in debt.

This brings Apostles to a new place. As a congregation, we need to begin to discuss and plan how to use the funds from the sale. Consensus was voiced to pay what we owe and fix the building. After this, a considerable amount of money should be available for mission, investment, or what ever is deemed to be the best use of these dollars. Although the sale is not complete, dialogue concerning whether we remain a mission or become a

full pledged parish should begin, involving as many people as possible. To become a full parish, we need to repay the diocese and become self supporting. Liz would move from Vicar status to parish Rector. We would have more control over our parish and we would need to help support the diocese by giving approximately 10 % to the Alleluia fund and around 10 % of our gross income to the diocese on an annual basis.

Bill reminded us all to send agenda items to him before the next meeting.

Bill closed the meeting at approximately 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diann Neal, Clerk of the Vestry
Church of the Apostles