

## Vestry Meeting February 16, 2016

A vestry meeting was held February 16, 2016 at the home of Janet Hoffman. The following vestry members were present: Fr. Jack Wehrs, Mr. Dana Faris, Ms. Janet Hoffman, Mr. Mark LeGeros, Mr. Fer Sandoval, and Mr. Ralph Osborne. Absent: Mr. Don Bailey, Ms. Jennifer Creighton. Also present was Fr. Michael Schirmacher who offered to serve as clerk in the absence of secretary Ms. Shirley Wehrs.

Fr. Jack opened the meeting with Prayer for the Church meeting.

1. The **Minutes** of January 13, 2016 were approved with the following corrections:
  - a. Parishioner Omar's last name is spelled Gabuto.
  - b. To be added: "The concern was raised about extraordinary expenses reported and it was discussed that future financial reports could note both extraordinary donations and extraordinary expenses as such."
2. **Financial** - The financial information was presented.
  - a. Fer Sandoval currently serves as treasurer.
  - b. Jack noted that there had been no extraordinary expenses except for the replacement of a new blower.
  - c. Income:
    - i. It was noted that not many pledges were coming in; that financially we were just getting by. The poor plate offering was noted. It was also noted, however, that we were doing better than before. Notes about pledging included: a suggestion to make the monthly expenses of the church better known to members. When Janet Hoffman mentioned that some have verbalized to her a willingness to give, but not pledge, Fr. Jack stated that putting any amount of money in an envelope (or writing a check with one's name on it?) is recorded as a pledge.
    - ii. Janet Hoffman volunteered to give a Stewardship Talk this Sunday. Fr. Jack concurred.
    - iii. A discussion ensued about tax deductibility for donations to the Church. U.S. deductibility is already available and is already mentioned as such in each Sunday's bulletin. Canadian tax deductibility is more difficult to maneuver. Fr. Jack reported that he is pursuing Mexican tax deductibility but that it is a long slow process.
  - d. **Mortgage** - Fr. Jack reported that the current 18-year plan to retire the mortgage has not progressed at all. There was discussion about John Creighton's plan and its progress, as well as the current interest rates and security of property, particularly church property in Mexico. Janet Hoffman suggested a Committee (to raise money) to Retire the Mortgage and agreed to chair the Committee. Ralph Osborne, Dana Faris, and Fer Sandoval agreed to serve on the committee and other names were mentioned to possibly serve as well. Jack and the vestry concurred. Jack mentioned the hope that the Committee could include in its work research and application for grants.
3. **Bylaws** - Dana Faris presented a draft of Parish Bylaws, a first draft of which he had sent to vestry members a week earlier and had since revised in accordance with members' comments.

The Bylaws were passed by majority vote, with the following amendments to the draft presented:

Article I. 1.d. Absence of a membership in any other church in Mexico. OMITTED  
(Thus, the previous Article I.1.e "Has not resigned membership, etc." becomes Article I.1.d

Article III. 3.3 A Nominating Committee composed of all of the outgoing voting members of the Vestry shall be formed no later than the November Vestry meeting.

The Committee shall present, at minimum, the number of nominees necessary to fill all vacancies for elected positions on the Vestry. Nominations of qualified candidates will be accepted from the floor during the Annual General Meeting. Was revised to: 3.3 A Nominating Committee composed of all of the voting members of the Vestry shall present, at minimum and no later than the January vestry meeting, the number of nominees necessary to fill all vacancies for elected positions on the Vestry.

Most discussion focused on Article 1.2.b, and the phrase “by financial and/or work support”. While the majority passed the Bylaws with Article 1.2.b worded as is, Fr. Jack and one other vestry member dissented, stating that work support should not be offered as an alternative to financial support.

There was also discussion of whether the draft bylaws sufficiently clarified that each member had one vote. Vestry members recalled that at last year’s annual meeting couples were told that as pledging units they had only one vote. Fr. Jack stated that was not the case, that he had never said that, and that he doesn’t know how the confusion arose.

The Vestry-approved Bylaws will be presented to the Annual Parish Meeting for Approval.

4. **Bingo** - In Don Bailey’s absence, the next Bingo date was not discussed.
5. **Lenten Classes**
  - a. Fr. Michael’s “Grief, Hope and the Movies” begins tomorrow, 5:30 PM.
  - b. Shirley Wehrs women’s group “Deliver Me, Lord, from Negative Self-Talk” will begin Thursday of next week, 10 AM in the Chapel.
6. **Annual Meeting Date** -
  - a. The date of this year’s Annual Meeting was decided as Sunday, February 28.
  - b. 25 Copies of the vestry-approved bylaws will be made available in the church by Dana Faris;
  - c. Dana Faris will ask Curt Hahn to post a copy of the vestry-approved bylaws on the parish website.
7. Fr. Wehrs announced that he and Shirley would be in **San Diego March 10-18**.
  - a. Noted our usual St. Patrick’s Day celebration; wondered who might take responsibility for it in the Wehrs’ absence; noted that Don Bailey usually spearheads it.
  - b. Noted Holy Week Dates: Palm Sunday March 20, Easter Sunday March 27.
8. **Name Tags** - Fr. Wehrs noted that there is confusion about how name tags are presented, how new people are greeted, and how greeters are trained. It was suggested that there be a training class for greeters and Fr. Jack noted that asking visitors to sign in the guest book is one facet of welcoming new members that is particularly ignored. **Fr. Jack asked vestry members to observe the greeting process and prepare to discuss it at the next meeting.**
9. **Synod Report** - Synod delegates Fr. Michael, Janet Hoffman, Fer Sandoval and Dana Faris recalled actions of the Diocesan Synod in Zapopan earlier this month. (Delegate Alternate Shirley Wehrs had been unable to attend because of illness and Fr. Wehrs needed to leave the Synod early Saturday when Shirley’s illness worsened.) It was noted that the Diocese adopted a resolution appointing Dana Faris as co-chair of a Search Committee for a Coadjutor Bishop as Bishop Lino approaches retirement. Delegates also recalled that a significant number of organized missions in the Diocese are making moves to become parishes. The Diocese officially welcomed the indigenous Pame’ tribe into the Anglican Communion, the governor and other representatives of the tribe being present. Delegates were elected to the National General Synod. Next

year's Diocesan synod will be held February 3 and 4 at San Martin de las Flores Church, near the Guadalajara airport.

**10. New Business:**

- a. **Announcements** - Ralph Osborne mentioned that four persons had mentioned to him that they preferred our previous method of having announcements made by various persons throughout the congregation rather than delivered by one designated person. As others seemed to concur, Janet made the motion to revert to the previous way, and it was unanimously decided in favor.
- b. **Altar Guild** - Janet shared a note from Pam Sullivan about the need for help with the Altar Guild and the need for clergy to take proper care of vestments after use. She noted Judith St. Gaudens is taking a sabbatical from Altar Guild. Janet volunteered to chair the Altar Guild and will call for volunteers, both male and female.
- c. **Social Hour** - It was also agreed that two people need to be designated for Social Hour during High Season in order to share the expenses and work entailed.

**11. Next Vestry Date: Tuesday, March 22, 10 AM. Fr. Jack's House.**