

# Church of the Holy Nativity

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting  
May 18, 2016  
Holy Nativity Chapel

**Present:** **Ex-officio:** Barbara Poole-Street and Eva Eglinton  
**Lay Members:** David Callies, Justin Donahue, Lila Johnson, Louisa Le Roux, Austin Nakoa, Mike Sen, and Bill Seeley.  
**Absent:** Ed Moore and Wendy Yu  
**Guests:** The Reverend George Clifford, Tim Spurrier, and Caroline Bond Davis

## **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm by Barbara Poole-Street, Senior Warden.

## **Devotion and Prayer:**

Father Clifford asked Vestry members to share what Holy Nativity means to each of them and offered their comments as thanksgivings to God.

## **Minutes:**

The minutes of the April 20, 2016 Vestry Meetings were approved as circulated. The minutes of April 20 and April 27, 2016 Vestry Executive Sessions were approved as circulated.

Caroline Bond Davis commented on the value of all the Holy Nativity campus facilities. She acknowledged the commitment of the Thrift Shop volunteers and briefly mentioned the repair and maintenance needs.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

In the absence of Treasurer, Wendy Yu, the April Statement of Activities was circulated for comment and discussion. Yu previously sent an e-mail message to Vestry members acknowledging that this Statement shows increased activity due to timing as was predicted last month.

## **Junior Warden Report:**

Eva Eglinton reported on the expiring lease for one of the cell towers. She asked for assistance in addressing this issue. Greg Kwan was recommended due to his previous experience. Austin Nakoa offered to help.

Nakoa reported on the status of the grease trap. It simply needs to be replaced. Previous solicited bids have been notably high. Nakoa stated the grease trap should cost no more than \$25,000. He cited the Capital Budget with projections

## **Senior Warden Report:**

Poole-Street reported that a farewell event for Rev Deb has been requested. It was proposed that this be held on June 11<sup>th</sup> in Glantz Hall.

**School Report:**

Tim Spurrier, Holy Nativity Head of School, deferred a report until next meeting.

**New Business:**

A letter was sent to some Vestry members from the five parents who were sued. Though the lawsuit has been withdrawn, there were two issues presented: a letter of exoneration is requested and also recovery of the legal fees paid by the Holy Nativity School. A response is expected by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Discussion ensued regarding an appropriate reply.

Mike Sen moved that David Callies and Ed Moore be asked to draft a letter to be reviewed by the Vestry at a Special Session on June 1, 2016. The motion was seconded and carried.

**Priest's Report:**

Fr Clifford's observations and perspective for the last 2½ weeks. He noted four problems:

1. The deferred capital maintenance and needed repairs for the facilities
2. Governance issues
  - a. Lack of mutual awareness of the school's and the church's finances
  - b. Two calendars exist for scheduling
  - c. Proper roles for Vestry and School Boards
3. Lack of good will and mutual trust
  - a. Positive relationships have been eroding
  - b. Meetings should be fun
4. A general malaise exists among the congregation
  - a. The pews are not full
  - b. Congregation is predominantly elderly

Serious consideration needs to be given to the issue of pastoral leadership which will be vacant as of July 1, 2016. This is not an employment issue. The Vestry has to determine what is its vision for the future and also what are the desired skills of the rector

**Future Plans:**

Discussion ensued regarding what are the current needs of the church. A full-time rector is desired. Issues that need to be considered include: What will the Vestry members commit to do? What is necessary to move Holy Nativity forward? What is preferable -- an interim rector or a priest in charge?

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at   pm

Lila Johnson  
Clerk