

Aquia Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2009

1. **Attendance.** The Vestry gathered at 7:00 for an evening meal presented by Eleanor Perry and Cheri Cuff. Present were:

Father Mandell
Father Morris
Chris Arey
Glen Clark
Edwin Cubbison
Cheri Cuff
Henk de Jager
Adam Hawkins
Linda Hemming
Connie King
Gary Perkins
Eleanor Perry
David Primmer
Bob Stevens
Libby Vinso

2. **New Business.**

- The minutes of the April 21 Vestry meeting were corrected and approved.
- The Vestry approved a resolution to sell two cemetery spaces to Gary Perkins.
- The Rector introduced a resolution to approve articles of incorporation for a not-for-profit corporation to be named the “Historic Aquia Church Foundation,” and to designate a search committee to compile a list of potential Directors to initiate the process of setting up the new foundation. The purpose of this foundation is to attract new sources of funding for the preservation and interpretation of our historic properties. The draft articles have been reviewed by Tom Moncure from a legal standpoint and by Gene Smith from a CPA viewpoint, to insure compliance with Virginia corporation and federal IRS rules. An extended discussion ensued concerning the purpose and structure of the proposed corporation, and whether it could complicate existing fundraising efforts or represent a burdensome workload for the Vestry. The Rector presented a matrix showing how the Historic Aquia Church Foundation would complement other sources of income—Parish pledges, the Aquia Association, the Moncure-Robinson Association, and Planned Giving. He clarified that, while the Vestry would retain control over how funds raised by the new entity are used, the foundation would function independently from the Vestry and not require its management. The Vestry approved the resolution.
- The Vestry discussed planning for the June 7 annual Parish Picnic, to be held at Locust Shade Park. A roster of Vestry member duties was circulated. Henk de Jager volunteered to run the games this year, as he has before. The Vestry will pay for the cost of the picnic, estimated at \$25 each. The picnic will feature the

commissioning of participants in the annual Mission trip and distribution of the Diocese mission allowances to new confirmands who are participating. It also provides an opportunity to welcome new Parish families and honor military families who are departing the Parish.

- Christian Education Director Lascetta Patton has resigned, effective June 30, but will do everything possible beforehand to set up the annual Vacation Bible School program. The Rector and the Administration Committee are collaborating on a job description and advertisement for a new Christian Education director; an alert will appear in the monthly newsletter. There was some discussion of the practicality of combining the functions of Youth Director and Christian Education Director, but funding considerations make this impossible at present. The Rector has designated Father Morris to manage Youth Director responsibilities.
- After some discussion of calendar conflicts with Columbus Day and the Carter Society homecoming, the Vestry approved Saturday, October 17th as the date for the annual Fall Fest.

3. Committee Reports.

- Historic Church Standing Committee: Connie King presented the committee's one year and five year plans. The Vestry suggested adding to the five year plans completion of an independent assessment of the state of the entire historic church building. (Report attached.)
- Stewardship Committee: Ted Cubbison circulated notes of the committee's May 6 meeting, including themes for the year-long stewardship awareness campaign. (Report attached.)
- Finance Committee: David Primmer reviewed topics discussed at the committee meeting, including taking a needs survey to insure the recent \$25,000 bequest for Clifton Chapel is used appropriately, and looking into local bank alternatives so we can diversify our reserve holdings, and publicizing the fact that income received is running ahead of the percentage expected at this point in the year.

4. Treasurer's Report.

- Chris Arey reported that in view of income being ahead of schedule, it may be possible for the Vestry to consider reallocation or restoration of funding in the current budget at the June meeting. The treasurer's report was accepted.
- Because members of the audit committee have been unavailable or ill, the audit of the 2008 Church finances will be completed later in June.

- 5. Rector's Report.** Father Mandell reported on his two weeks of study and reading on the issue of homosexuality in scripture, which he undertook at Bishop Shannon Johnston's request after January's Diocesan convention. Father Mandell's aim was to develop a procedure for eventual formulation of theology on the issue of same sex unions, to guide the Diocese's deliberations. He has concluded that for the moment the issue is too divisive, and that a cooling-off period is needed to avoid our becoming a one-issue church. Father Mandell will therefore recommend to Bishop Johnston that the Diocese hold off resolutions on this issue that are likely to come up in the near future. The Rector supports Vestry interest in inviting Bishop

Johnston to visit us sometime after July's General Convention, before he becomes Bishop in October when Bishop Lee resigns.

6. Senior Warden's Report.

- Glen has prepared a newsletter article on Bishop Lee's visit to Aquia Episcopal Church on April 26, which counted as a success in terms of attendance and the discussion the Vestry had with Bishop Lee.
- Glen has obtained information from St. George's Church in Fredericksburg on tax credits applied to their restoration work, for our future use and guidance.
- The new lease on Clifton Chapel is still pending; we will negotiate the new rental amount with the Orthodox Church and will probably phase in the new, higher rental. The new lease will have a ten-year term. After the lease is in place, a dedication service will be scheduled involving both congregations.

7. Junior Warden's Report.

- Kitchen and pantry renovations and the new Parish Hall water fountain are moving forward.
- The Parish Hall A/C system needs repair/replacement, with the second story unit worse off than the lower floor unit.
- We are trying to resolve the problem of freezing-up of the historic church's A/C unit; Ron Korth is to give us his views.
- We will seek additional bids on the Clifton Chapel pest control contract. Paint and locks on the Clifton Chapel will be attended to.
- The Boy Scout Eagle project of restoring our carillon is moving ahead.
- Repair issues on the Rectory are being addressed.
- Aquia Church will have an outreach table at the Aquia Harbor July 4th Picnic.
- A second Pig Roast will be organized for the Fall Fest; the May Pig Roast took in over \$1600.

8. Announcements and Thank You's.

- The Vestry will send a thank you notes to:
 - The Orthodox Church for supporting our Pig Roast with a bake sale / rummage sale.
 - Bill Hoffman for his volunteer work in smoothing the edge of the sidewalk outside the Parish Hall in advance of our Mother's Day services.
 - Paul Romano for volunteering to repair a Parish Hall restroom toilet.
- The Vestry thanked Gary Perkins for his generous funding of the new kitchen cabinets. Father Mandell cited this gift as an example of the generous spirit engendered by our outreach programs.

9. Next Meeting Date and Hosts. The next regular Vestry meeting will be June 16, with Linda Hemming and Henk de Jager hosting the meal.

10. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Father Morris at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Cubbison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Ted Cubbison
Register