

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
**Burnsville, North Carolina**  
**Vestry Minutes**  
**November 18, 2007**

**Opening Prayer:** *Reverend Bob Reese*

**Attendance:** *Reverend Bob Reese, Neal Culver, John Davis, Jackie Murray, Charlie Stover, Joann Collins, and Jim for Rector Search Committee. Absent: Robbie Robertson, and Pat Sharkey as Vestry Clerk*

**Approval of agenda:** *Charlie motioned to approve the agenda for today's meeting, Jackie seconded, all voted in favor—put Jim Haaga (Search) first.*

**Rector Search Committee:** *Jim reviewed the PISR (Parish/Institution Search Request) and asked for Vestry input in several areas below*

1. *Education Degree Certificate – add “Master of Divinity” and “Theology”*
2. *Financial Data-add following, basis Oct. 25, 2007 Op. Budget for 2008 (We felt this was the most applicable, as it represents our first full year with our building, despite not having a rector)-*
  - a. *Budget: \$108,700*
  - b. *Total Debt: \$20,000*
  - c. *Total Paid to Dioc: \$9,550*
  - d. *Dioc. Aid Rec'd: No interest loan above*
  - e. *Total Pledges: # 33 for \$89,000.*
3. *Compensation Maximum: Negotiable*
4. *Church School Teachers: #5 and Pupils: #10*

*Jim reviewed a number of other attachments intended to go to the Diocese with the PISR, including the following: a) Parish Goals Survey results (top 19 votegetters); b) Parish Goals as shown in St. Thomas Tidings of October 2007; c) Yancey Common Times story “The Little Church that Could” about building our church; and several others. The intent is to put the above Vestry-contributed items into the PISR and e-mail it Monday, November 19, 2007.*

**Approval of minutes:** *Minutes for October 25<sup>th</sup> were reviewed, corrected; a motion was made by Joann to approve the minutes, seconded by John, all voted in favor.*

**Schedule of next vestry meeting:** *The next meeting will be December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.*

**Schedule:** *Rev. Bob Reese reviewed the Dedication Service for the Christian Education space scheduled for Saturday, 11/24/07.*

**Financial Reports:**

- *General Fund: None*
- *Building Fund: Current balance \$7,760. Estimated costs to complete the Basement Education Space, Memorial Garden, and Landscaping total \$10,285. The previously-determined deficit of \$5,686 is now done to \$2,525, and will drop further, as John*

*estimates Lars' final bill will probably be only ~\$500, and the digital piano at \$1,000 should essentially complete the basement construction spending. As donations continue to come in, we may end up nearly zero vs. in red ink*

- *Joann moved, and Charlie seconded approving financial reports; passed.*

### **Old Business:**

1. *Charlie reported letter to Bishop forwarding Audit sent 11/16.*
2. *Joann will get Charlie contact info for UBS Account so he can send letter re selling stock.*
3. *Joann will look for 4-drawer fireproof file cabinet for papers, each drawer with separate key. Spending to \$2,000 approved.*
4. *Hispanic Ministry: Joann reported that ex-Bishop Johnson would come to confirm when we asked. At Day of Dead dinner, 3 families requested confirmation classes. Joann will see if Diantha would organize the classes. (Only one of the Hispanics from this spring-Carmen Guerra- was confirmed. The others were all First Communion) Tom Niehaus offered to perform a Spanish-language service on Sunday afternoon once a month at St. Thomas-Vestry applauded this and felt it might be well attended.*
5. *Youth Ministry: It was suggested that the Church School persons be asked to brainstorm what things they would like to have if \$ available, and revert to the Vestry. It was suggested that the Diocesan website was useful to find happenings, particularly for mid and high school age youth. These grew out of some sense of frustration about lack of specific actions and spending \$ to take to help youth grow, despite it being high on the list of goals for the Parish*

### **Action Items:**

1. **Lutheran Conversation:** *John Davis, Margie Haaga & Tom Niehaus met with Wayne Nelson (Luth. Bishop's office) and Canon Jim Pritchett Monday 12th, along with Jean Chuvala, Jean Sautner, and Jerry Hoffman. The Bishops' reps continue enthusiastic for connection. Copies of Luth-Luth and Luth-Episc joint priest employment contracts were discussed, as were possibilities for options. There is little sentiment in either group for joint services—discussions included how service times could be determined, how to supervise a priest/pastor with two Vestry/Committee groups. John raised an important issue, namely if we were to rely on MoM to fund part of the rector's salary and they continue to decline in membership—might St. Thomas end up with "more priest than we could afford."*
2. **2008 Operating Budget and Review of Pledges Rec'd:**
  - a. **Pledges:** *Joann reported she'd received 33 pledge cards so far, totaling \$89,000! There are several more families who are regulars she's awaiting, so the total may well go up more. Charlie will update the Budget to reflect this level of Pledges.*
  - b. **Budget:** *We reviewed the 10/26/07 Operating Budget approved at the Oct. 25th Vestry Meeting, showing Expenses of \$108,700, Pledges of \$73,000 and Total Income of \$84,500—resulting in a 2008-year deficit of \$24,200. That deficit was planned to be covered from the prior (2006 and 2007) years' operating surpluses. With the additional \$16,000 pledges above, that 2008-year deficit would be lowered to \$8,200. A copy of the 10/26/07 Budget, updated with the*

*new Pledges (\$89,000,) is attached. Joann presented 3 spending items for consideration: 1. Weedwhacking, etc--\$1,000 annually; 2. Additional Pay Down Dioc. Loan-\$2,500 annually; and 3. Mexican Humanity Lent Build Project (Dioc & Habitat for Humanity )-\$1,000. The grounds maintenance currently has \$1,000 for 2008, which seemed sufficient. Additional Loan repayment was felt better deferred until after Rector search and health insurance costs are known, when it can be re-considered. Mexican Lent Build project financing was moved by Joann, second John and passed for \$1,000. Charlie will contact Tom Bailey to pay \$1,000 against the 2008 Budget for Outreach.*

3. **Dominican Republic Visit Feb. 2007.** *Tom Niehaus requested \$300 to assist in covering his travel costs in a joint visit with St. Paul's, Wilkesboro, being organized by Rev. Thomas Morris to David Johnson's area of D.R. (Haagas are also going). Tom N and St. Paul's would contribute \$700 of the \$1,000 cost. The Vestry agreed this was a beneficial project, and that M&M be approached for funding same. Joann moved : & Jackie second-passed. Charlie will contact Diana Donovan with request.*
  
4. **Robbie Robertson Resignation.** *Neal advised that Robbie wished to resign from the Vestry for several reasons. Charlie moved, John second to accept resignation-passed.*

**Senior Warden's Report:** *None.*

#### Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds: *John said construction was complete; need only bill for work.*

**11/19/07-Jon got \$490 invoice to complete payment for interior construction. 11/18-John and Charlie got old altar relocated in basement of Diocesan office.**