

Rector's Report
March 2010

Dear colleagues,

Overall I feel that we have a very positive and productive retreat a few week's ago. Again, I am grateful for the gift of your precious time. I was especially delighted that we were joined by members of the Foundation and School Boards. Although there was a misstep towards the end of retreat I feel that our meeting helped greatly in deepening our working relationship together.

We made good progress, but clearly we have ongoing work to do in the following areas:

- To finalize our mission statement
- To come to consensus on our strategic vision goals for the next few years
- To identify the core values which underpin the mission and vision of our church community and ministry as the vestry

My hope is that we can continue to think and pray about these issues at our regular vestry meetings.

One of the concerns is, of course, about the expansion of our church school. While it is clear that the vestry approved this in principle some important issues still remain. The concerns are centered around three areas:

1. How the church can physically accommodate expansion of our school – space issues.
2. The financial viability of expansion and how the church may or may not be liable for the financial wellbeing of our school.
3. Who gets to make decisions on these critical issues – the school board alone, the vestry, the wider congregation or a combination of these.

In the short term it is my understanding that we have discerned two ways in which these issues can be addressed:

- The Vestry and the School Board are currently working on updating their bylaws. Once both groups have completed their drafts we will need to establish a committee comprised of members from each entity to look at both sets of revised bylaws to ensure that they are complementary to each other – they are mutually supportive and that lines of accountability are firmly enshrined in the new bylaws.
- The School has been asked to update the vision plan that was written in 2008. In particular, the new plan will need to have proposals that address the issues that I have identified above. This vision plan can then form the basis of our discussions with the board and perhaps the wider congregation.

I hope that this gives you a clear sense of the process as we move forward. Other ideas are more than welcome ☺.

One of the other issues that we need to work on is the Columbarium and the Courtyard. As you remember the Foundation Trustees took on responsibility for the administration and maintenance of these two areas. Last year the Foundation formally returned responsibility of the Columbarium and Church Courtyard back to the Vestry. There has been some concern expressed about the future upkeep of these areas. Dale Barnecott is currently administering the sale of the niches in the Columbarium. Clearly we need to establish a working group to make proposals to vestry about:

1. To establish a permanent committee to oversee the administration and maintenance of the Columbarium and Courtyard with special regard for the remains interred in these areas.
2. To update and or write protocols for the internment and care of interred remains.
3. To establish clear lines of responsibility for the care of these two areas.

I hope that a couple of you would be willing to serve on a working group to help write some proposals.

We also need to vote on the housing allowance portion of Fr. Peeler's salary. I have attached a draft letter for your information.

A few other things...

- The work on the refurbishment on the Narthex is in progress. The new lighting and painting will be completed by Easter. The new flooring will probably be done after Easter. All of the work has been paid for by donations.
- The work on repairing the Sacristy is also underway. We hope to have this finished by Easter. The money for this has come from our insurance company.
- The worship committee is planning to hold a forum on Sunday, April 18th to discuss possible changes to the configuration of the altar in the main sanctuary. They have been collecting comments and feedback from the liturgical experiments that have taken place over the last few months. They will be working on a final report after the meeting on April 18th.
- Do remember to sign up for the Consecration of our new Bishop, Fr. Michael Hanley on Saturday, April 10th. There is a display in the foyer and or you can go to the Diocesan website for tickets and details.

With my prayers and thanks,

Simon