

Agenda for Parish Council April 21, 2009

1. Opening Prayer
2. Reflection
3. Rector's Report
4. Approval of the Report of the Parish Council Retreat and discussion of follow-up
5. ARC: Presentation by Pat Bowen and Catherine Malone, for discussion and approval (see below)
6. Presentation by Sue Evans regarding floor in the nave and chancel, for discussion and approval
7. Financial update by Treasurer

Notes on the Agenda:

Re #4. The draft report of the retreat is attached. Please review it before the meeting and email Emmy Verdun (emmy.verdun@gmail.com) with any corrections so that it can be approved with quickly at the meeting. **We would also request that you think about what one thing we should consider implementing in the short-term.** The report of the retreat summarizes the suggestions that we discussed at the retreat, and below you will find a summary of the ideas raised at the Vestry meeting. During the Parish Council meeting we would like to have a short discussion of follow-up, focused on whether we can agree on one thing to consider implementing and preparing for a further "discernment" session with the whole congregation.

Suggestions raised at Vestry

- Feel that we are called to visioning around the Millennium Development Goals.
- Our visioning should be part of the national church's "Dream Church: Vision 2019".
- Food is something that should be concerning all of us. The quality of food currently being sold is not good and we should be looking at ways of improving this.
- That we as a church should be open to young people.
- Find ways of welcoming refugees and people from other countries, even when their views do not reflect our own.
- We should focus on the issue of homelessness. We need to be more aware of the issues of homelessness.
- Feel strongly that a children's choir and children's music is important.
- With the current altar placement, feel very disconnected with the Eucharist. The Eucharist should be more community focused.
- We have lots of great artists, and this should be more integrated into the service.
- For some families, encouraging people to come to services may not be the best. Instead we need to meet people where they are at.
- Should hear from representatives of Centre 454 and Centre 507 as part of the sermon time.

Re # 5. The question that ARC will be presenting for discussion/approval, plus some background on this question are as follows:

On the understanding that changes would be made only when financially feasible, should Gerald Robinson's proposal be used as a starting point for discussions regarding what we should do to the worship space?

In discussion it was agreed that Gordon Robinson's identification of St John's as a nurturing community struck a strong resonance with many at his presentation. The proposal involves 2 key elements: the central communion table and that we all worship together in the nave. If this is accepted, considerations of finances and timing can follow as they become feasible. It was felt that we would need meetings with discussion groups as was done for Hearts and Hands so that people can talk about their wishes. Consultations could be held May 3, 24 and 7 June, with a 'trial run' presentation to PC 21 April.