

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING OF ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1973.

The Meeting was opened at 9:22 a.m. with the Chairman, Warden James P. Parks, presiding. The minutes of the September Vestry Meeting were read by Warden Mr. Henry L. VanLandingham. A motion was made by Vestryman Mr. Willard A. Morse to accept the minutes, with the necessary corrections, and was seconded by Vestryman Mrs. Geneva B. Scruggs. With no opposing votes, the motion to accept the minutes was carried.

Communications were reported by Mr. VanLandingham as follows:

1. Thank You letter from Mrs. Virginia Bryant, acknowledging a card she received from the Vestry during her illness
2. Letter received from Bishop Robinson concerning the Diocesan Convention.

Wardens' Report followed, given by Mr. VanLandingham.

Finance Committee Report was given by Treasurer Mr. Morse (a detailed statement being attached hereto).

SPEC Housing Committee report given by Mr. VanLandingham. We are hoping to receive a Letter of Feasability from Washington, D.C., but to date no answer has come.

SPEC Community Center report by Mrs. Scruggs. A committee made up of representatives of the Center Board (with Vestryman Mr. Laughton D. Thomas, Acting Chairman), the Executive Director (Mrs. Scruggs), and others; met with the present rector of St. Clement's (Father Bruce Griffith) concerning the possibility of moving our Center Program into St. Clement's by November. The Vestry of St. Clement's must decide if this is possible, however, and they will be meeting sometime in the near future. Father Griffith was asked of his opinion of the need for our Center in the community, based on the fact that there are 2 other centers in that vicinity. His reply was that "These 2 other centers are farther away than he would send his child. There is a definite need for a Center Program in the community of St. Clement's." He then suggested a target date for our move: on or around November 13, 1973. No firm commitment can be made by them until after November 15th, when he will discuss with their Vestry the costs of heating and other expenses.

October

Church Property Sale. In the absence of Atty. Mr. William A. Sims, Mr. VanLandingham reported that Mr. Sims has the papers to present to the Supreme Court for authorization to sell our present property.

Ever Member Canvass. Mr. VanLandingham, when approached by Dean Smith, assumed the Chairmanship for the Drive here at SPEC. A meeting will be held of the ~~Deanery~~ Chairmen on October 12th. A suggestion was made by Associate Vestryman Mrs. Anita H. Wing as a possible source of income for the coming year(s), we could have "PEW RENT" wherein each member or family would give \$100.00 for a year to reserve a pew in the Church; this would assure the rentor of a seat in the event he came to Church and the congregation was "full" he would still have a place to sit. After much discussion, the suggestion was tabled for consideration at a later time. Mr. VanLandingham asked Mrs. Wing and Vestryman Mr. Frederick W. McAlpin to serve on this committee.

Budget Committee. At the suggestion/appointment of the "Chair," the following will comprise the 1974 Budget Committee:

1. Vestryman Scruggs, Chairman
2. Associate Vestryman Mr. Sims
3. Vestryman Dr. Benjamin F. Bullock, Jr.
4. Vestryman (Treasurer) Morse
5. Warden James P. Parks

Nominating Committee. Chairman: Mr. Julius I. Evans; assisted by Associate Vestrymen: Mrs. Erna S. Clark and Mr. Hubert L. Miller. Mr. VanLandingham informed the Nominating Committee that the following persons' terms of office are due to expire:

1. Senior Warden : James P. Parks
2. Vestryman : William Godfrey, Jr.
3. Vestryman : Laughton D. Thomas
4. Vestryman : Mrs. Geneva B. Scruggs

Parish Meeting. Mr. VanLandingham suggested a proposed date for our Annual Parish Meeting: Sunday, December 2, 1973. The congregation will be properly notified of this meeting.

Moving Dates. Mr. VanLandingham reported that the Moving Committee has had two meetings; the target date for moving is sometime in January. A letter received from Vestryman Mr. Robert D. Edwards and attached to these minutes was read. Mr. Edwards, in his letter, states that he has been working with very knowledgeable persons on how to get our organ into St. Clement's. Father Edward Kryder, of Calvary Church-Williamsville, has offered his services in this area so that we may utilize (as best as we can) our efforts in getting all/most of our items into St. Clement's. A motion was made by Mrs. Scruggs that we accept Father Kryder as "Consultant in our Moving." It was seconded by Mr. Morse. With no opposition, the motion was unanimously carried. It was further moved by Mrs. Scruggs, and seconded by Mr. Morse, that the letter received from Mr. Edwards (mentioned above) be attached to the minutes of this meeting, for future reference.

Church Property Sale. Atty Mr. Sims, now having arrived, made the following report. The papers have been completed (for Church's Sale), and are ready to be filed. The Church Survey has been sent to the City of Buffalo. Mr. Sims asked for guidance from the Vestry as to whether he should "close early" and make arrangements for paying rent, or wait until later this year. St. Clement's lawyer has contacted Mr. Sims, and he (Mr. Sims) will know in 2 weeks, or sometime thereafter, whether or not we can proceed into St. Clement's. He feels that St. Clement's has finalized their plans for merging (with St. James), and we can possibly move into St. Clement's in 3-4 weeks. The following comments/discussion followed: Mrs. Clark asked Mr. Sims that if everything is ready for the sale of SPEC, perhaps we could hold off until St. Clement's completes its plans so that we won't have to pay rent at our present location. Mr. Morse suggested that we set a tentative Sale Date for the first week in December. Mr. VanLandingham reminded us that for the record, we need to have Atty. Mr. Sims' name applied as "Attorney for the Purchase of St. Clement's." It was moved by Mr. Morse, and seconded by Mrs. Scruggs that Atty. Sims be retained for the Purchase of St. Clement's. With no opposing votes, the motion was carried. Mr. VanLandingham suggested that in answer to Mr. Sims' request for guidance from the Vestry that we "play it by ear."

St. Clement's doesn't want to be rushed. Wait until their plans are complete; he can move ahead to negotiate the dates of the closing, contingent with St. Clement's move or progress. Mrs. Scruggs then asked Mr. Sims what his fee will be. Mr. Sims said that he will use the "Minimum Fee Schedule" as a guide; if the amounts are much less than \$55,000 the fee is usually a small percent (1-1½). He will charge on a percentage basis.

ADDITION to the October 1973 Minutes

CALLING COMMITTEE:

Mr. VanLandingham reported that the Vestry of St. Clement's is discussing arrangements with our Wardens for Father Griffith to remain in the Rectory, until such time that we have a full-time priest (to occupy the rectory) or upon the "newly formed congregation" making other arrangements for Father Griffith.

~~Bishop's visitation.~~ Mr. VanLandingham reported that Bishop Robinson has agreed to have Confirmation on his Annual Visitation Day, Sunday, November 25, 1973. We need a chairman of the Hospitality Committee. Mrs. Scruggs accepts the responsibility of finding someone to serve as Chairman of the Hospitality Committee.

Mr. VanLandingham reported that our Presiding Bishop, The Right Reverend John E. Hines, is resigning as of June 1974 because of many repercussions from "the Flock" in his effort to help the minorities. He has consented to have his picture on our 1974 Church Calendars. Mr. Charles H. Simmons, manager of the Cecil Brown Funeral Service, has agreed to furnish the calendars for our Church Family. Mrs. Scruggs noted that Bishop Hines was "brutally attacked" by one of our own Buffalo Priests, at our last Diocesan Convention, and it was shortly after that he (Bishop Hines) left Buffalo and announced publicly his resignation as our "Chief Pastor."

Mrs. Scruggs asked that had we not at a previous Parish Meeting discussed limiting the terms of Vestrymen to two consecutive terms (6 years); and at that time (of expiration of his term) he would have to remain off (the Vestry) for one year before being re-elected? There was no evidence of any such proposal or discussion in the Office Files. She commented, also, that our Wardens need to be legal-minded and knowledgeable about the Church.

With no further discussion or business the meeting was adjourned, by Mr. Parks, at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Appling

(Miss) Walter Appling
Acting Clerk for October Meeting

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Calling Committee. Mr. VanLandingham stated that the Study Committee has made their report to the Diocese. The Committee should now get together with the Calling Committee. Mrs. Scruggs reminded us that if Father Griffith is going to move out of the rectory (St. Clement's) before we get a ~~Priest~~, we need to consider what we are going to do about getting someone to stay on the premises to protect the property. Mr. Sparks felt that St. Clement's would probably be aware of this need due to vandalism and arsonists, etc., but it would also be good if we could make some provisions to have someone there to look after things. Mr. Sims volunteered to serve on the Calling Committee. Mrs. Scruggs made a motion that the Study Committee have the responsibility of selecting the Calling Committee--with additions being any member(s) of the Parish. The motion was seconded by Mr. Morse. With no opposition, the motion was carried.

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