

Bishop's Committee  
Thursday, Sept. 22, 1988

PRESENT: Brewer, Hall, Hunter, Johnson, Moose, Page, Rethorn, Fred Stewart  
Ruby Stewart

ABSENT: DeLay

GUEST: Randy Reinartz

Mo. Karen opened the meeting at 7:50 p.m. with prayers.

Minutes of the May 26 meeting were approved as presented.

The May, June and July treasurer's reports were also approved as presented.  
The bank balance as of Sept. 22 was \$413.55.

Grace's heating bill to date has been \$1124.23. Getting the church on Northwestern Public Service's budget plan had been previously discussed. As we missed the July 1 deadline for joining, we'll have to wait until next year. Monthly payments would have been \$118.00.

Under old business, Moose reported on two bids for cordless mics. The first was from Pro Audio in Sioux Falls, with the bid at \$799.00 per channel and double for two channels. The second bid came from Sioux Sound, also of Sioux Falls -- \$650.00 for one channel and double for two. Both systems will work with our existing systems, and both quotes include installation. Moose recommends Pro Audio because they are accustomed to dealing with churches whereas Sioux Sound usually works with schools. Motion by Moose and second by Hunter to table discussion on the cordless mics, pending further study, until the next meeting. Motion carried.

Mo. Karen called for a committee to investigate our problems with gutters and down spouts. Moose volunteered. Financing will come from our rectory account with the diocese. Moose will put together a package by the next meeting.

Randy Reinartz, the finance officer of the diocese, spoke to the Bishop's Committee on many subjects. He told us that word would be received within 60 days concerning the grant which has been written to help support Mo. Karen's ministry.

Reinartz reported that Grace's rectory fund with the diocese is just short of \$15,000.00. He reiterated that the interest from the fund is to be used for capital improvements on the church building. In 1987/88, he stated, the original purpose of the fund got shifted around and was used for operating expenses. His suggestion to stick to capital improvements, he stressed, is simply based on good fiscal commonsense.

Hunter added that we could, perhaps, be more creative in our accounting for improvements and using this interest for repair and maintenance, while at the same time being prudent about our expenditures.

Reinartz cautioned that with old buildings such as ours, a major repair problem could be very costly, and it is necessary to have money available. A lack of such funds, he stressed, could be very demoralizing to a congregation.

He suggested that we not include \$900.00 interest from the rectory fund as a line item in our 1989 budget. He wants us to maintain good fiscal responsibility and feels as if we have stretched ourselves to the limit in the last three years.

The balance of the meeting found Reinartz entertaining questions from the B.C. members. We learned that General Convention passed \$38½ million budget this year. Also, of the 60,000 Native Americans in S.Dak., 22,000 are Episcopalians and 12-15,000 of them are "reasonably committed" to the church. In the diocese of S.Dak., 50% of the Episcopalians are Native Americans. We have 15 mission clergy working on the Indian reservations. Reinartz has felt that the diocese has experienced a resurgence of spirit and direction in the last couple of years and feels that the Bishop has been largely responsible for this.

Mo. Karen stated that the adult education class will meet the first and third Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. The third Wednesday these classes will be preceded by a Bishop's Committee meeting at 6:30. Our next meeting will be Oct. 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Katherine T. Brewer*

Katherine T. Brewer  
Clerk