

**CHURCH INFORMATIONAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2010**

Dear Christ Church family,

At the vestry meeting on January 19, our parish leaders agreed that it would be very helpful to provide the opportunity to hear from the parish feedback on the vestry letter dated January 12. We have asked Keith Orme to facilitate this meeting, and he has gladly offered to do so.

Please see the guidelines as Keith lays them out below, and please plan to come to the Parish Hall Sunday, February 7 at 9:30 AM.

Chuck Collins
Rector

Dear Fellow Members of Christ Episcopal Church,

We are very blessed to have a clergy team and a vestry that want to know what is in our hearts and minds on the issues before our congregation. They have asked me to serve as the facilitator for the February 7 meeting. I am happy to do so and comfortable with the assignment having had years of experience in my career handling meetings of this type.

The vestry letter dated January 12, 2010, will provide you with a statement about the national church and its impact upon Christ Episcopal Church. It will be the basis for our discussion. What are your hopes? What are your fears? What do you think Christ Church should do?

My role will be to create an open atmosphere for participation. This will be a time of listening, respecting, and appreciating each member of our church family. To that end I wish to share with you the plan for the meeting as follows:

- The meeting will start immediately after the 8:30 AM service and will end at 11:05 AM, which means we have a very limited time. Please move to the Parish Hall as rapidly as possible after the service and sign in as soon as you arrive if you wish to speak.
- No talk will exceed five minutes, and that amount of time will be adjusted downward based on the number

of those who wish to speak, but in no event less than 2 ½ minutes per talk. Speakers will be selected by drawing names from a hat. A gentle chime will sound when 45 seconds of time remains, and an alarm will ring when the total time has expired.

- After each talk I encourage us to reflect on what was just said and to avoid any applause. There will be no rebuttal or debate as we want nothing to chill the atmosphere of our sharing with one another.

- All of us will sit together as the family of Christ Church listening to the one member who is speaking. There will be no “head table” so the speaker will be addressing all of us in the Christ Church family.

- I encourage everyone who has an opinion to provide me with one or two pages of written material. This is important even if you plan to speak because you may not have enough time to conclude your remarks or your name may be one not drawn. Also this would benefit the vestry by having your remarks in a form where they can refer back to them without having to try to keep notes. This procedure will allow the sitting vestry members to include their views even though they have elected not to speak in order to hear from more members. Also this will allow anyone who is reluctant to speak to be able to share their views.

- I plan to provide two copies of a bound book to be available at the reception desk, available for use on premises. This will be appreciated by those who were unable to attend the meeting or for anyone interested in the views of the members who did not speak or were unable to finish.

- The facilitator will make no comments before or after any speaker. There will be no summary of the event from the microphone. Each of the members can prayerfully discern the conclusion for themselves.

Experience shows that listening with an open mind helps every one to understand better what the issues are. It also helps the attitude of the members as they have had an opportunity to be respectfully heard and to be part of the process. In our religious setting, this process could allow the Holy Spirit an opportunity to move within us.

In His service,
Keith Orme, Facilitator