

St. John's Episcopal Church
610 Young Street
Melbourne FL 32935
Vestry Minutes
February 15, 2018

Present: Steve Bradley, Bill Chernault, Linda Fletcher, Ben Kendall, Hal Martin, Sarah Kendall, Julie Miller, Linda Miller, Kathy Oas, Lee Steininger, Eric Turner, Katie Wilson

Absent: Anneke Bertsch

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Father Eric with prayers and remembrances for family, friends, and members and loved ones of the Vestry and the congregation.

FORMATION: Introduction to Vestry Service. Welcoming newly elected members to the Vestry, Fr. Eric discussed the Vestry's responsibility for confidentiality, the important role of fiscal oversight and decisions for the use of church assets. He reminded the Vestry to use the Vestry-specific email responsibly and not to forward email communication from there. He noted that abstaining from a vote is only reasonable if a conflict of interest exists or if the individual doesn't have sufficient information to make a decision. Finally, he noted that responsible oversight requires the Vestry to "step up/ speak up".

Minutes of the Vestry meeting, January 18, 2018: The minutes were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and the minutes were approved

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, January 28, 2018: The minutes were reviewed. A typographical correction to the Jr. Warden's Report, "eat" changed to "at", was identified. A motion was made, seconded, and the minutes approved with the correction.

Appointment and election of Officers: The Rector, Fr. Eric, appointed Hal Martin, to be Sr. Warden. The Vestry voted on and approved the following officers: Steve Bradley, Treasurer; Kathy Oas, Jr. Warden; Anneke Bertsch, Assistant Treasurer; Katie Wilson, Vestry Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported financials for the month ending January 31, 2018. Financials contained Summary Comments, the January 2018 balance sheet, January 2018 Financial Summary and January 2018 Cash Flow, 2018 Restricted Funds Summary, 2018 Outreach Contributions. In addition, Steve Bradley distributed a detailed analysis of Revenues & Expenses for edification of the new Vestry members.

Revenues for the month were \$14,842 against a budget of \$15,208 resulting in a shortfall to budget of \$366. Expenses for the month (\$17,980) were higher than budget by \$2,781 due primarily to a 3-month prepayment to the Rector's Health Savings Account and 2 months of medical insurance premiums.

The Cash Flow for the month ended with a \$2,781 deficit. Comparison to January 2017 Cash Flow showed income and expenses to be lower this year compared to last year.

The restricted funds account ended the month with a balance of \$57,632.09 of which \$45,764 is committed. This leaves approximately \$12,000 in uncommitted funds in this account.

January 2018 Outreach was \$1,673 which was earmarked for the Clergy Discretionary Account. February Outreach will go to Habitat for Humanity in support of the Apostle's Build project.

The January 2018 Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Discussion regarding the Pledge to Diocese/Alternative Giving was held, bringing the new Vestry members up to date with the history and potential future changes. Giving from parishes to the Diocese is increasing from 10% to 12% of unrestricted Pledge and Plate contributions, beginning in 2019. The question posed to the Vestry was what percent of the 10% for 2018 should be re-directed to Alternative Giving. The motion was made to keep the split of 50% to the National Church and 50% to Alternative Giving. The formula is expected to change after the National Convention the summer of 2018, after which the Vestry will revisit for impact and possible changes.

Sr. Warden's Report: None.

Jr. Warden's Report: The paneling and carpet in the Altar Guild Sacristy is complete, for a cost of \$440, well under the \$1,000 limit for the project.

The fuse boxes (aka circuit boxes) supporting the church and offices are old and are no longer considered safe for insurance purposes. Problems with these boxes are the source of intermittent equipment failures throughout the church. Richard Huffman is collecting quotes for replacement.

Mold and mildew in the church is a concern. Teckla Greene and others routinely try to clean; however, it is an ongoing concern. Continuous running of the air conditioning will be done to mitigate the problem.

Repair of the roof in Fr. Eric's office remains a much-needed future project.

Rector's Report: None.

Credit/Debit Processing: Delay discussion until next meeting.

Social Media Advertising: A motion was made, seconded and approved to invest \$500 for 6 months of social media advertising to broaden St. John's presence on the internet. This will be re-evaluated at the end of the 6 month period for effectiveness.

Replacing Projectors: A motion was made, seconded and passed to permit up to \$1,800 from Memorial Funds (worship), to replace the sanctuary and portable projectors.

Vestry Planning Retreat: The Vestry agreed to participate in a 1/2 day planning retreat to be scheduled on a Saturday in March. The intent is to establish focus of parish energy for the year.

Fire and Liability Insurance update: Earl Pickett is negotiating on behalf of the diocese. We anticipate up to a 10% decrease in the premiums as a result of this effort.

Parish Meeting reflections: Fr. Eric and the Vestry agreed the meeting was well attended, balloting went smoothly, and there was overall satisfaction with the process.

Outreach Focus for upcoming months: Linda Fletcher delayed the larger discussion about future Outreach Focus approach, but did recommend the Outreach Focus for the month of March be God's Pantry, a local food bank in Palm Bay.

There being no further business, the Vestry meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:25 p.m