

St. John's Episcopal Church

610 Young Street

Melbourne FL 32935

Vestry Minutes

December 14, 2017

**Present:** Steve Bradley, Bill Chernault, Hal Martin, Julie Miller, Kathy Oas, Fred Scheunemann, Eric Turner, Katie Wilson

**Absent:** Anneke Bertsch, Linda Fletcher, Sarah Kendall,

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Father Eric with prayers and remembrances for family, friends, and members and loved ones of the Vestry and the congregation.

**FORMATION:** Nehemiah 1:1-11. The themes are (1) statement of the Lord's protection; (2) the need to be faithful in worship and keeping law; (3) the Lord is faithful and merciful despite ongoing sin. These themes can and should be carried out by the Vestry.

**Minutes of the Vestry meeting, November 16, 2017:** The minutes were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and the minutes were approved with the additional statement regarding November's Outreach contributions being the highest level met thus far.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer reported financials for the month ending November 30. Financials contained Summary Comments, the November 2017 balance sheet, November 2017 Financial Summary and Cash Flow, 2017 Restricted Funds Summary to date, 2017, Outreach Contributions to date, and a Reserve strategy.

Revenues for the month were \$19,954 against a budget of \$17,550 - most of the difference a result of the delayed collection from the safe. Year to date revenues were \$3,680 better than budget. Expenses for the month were lower than budget by \$1,523 due primarily savings realized in expenses for Parish facilities. Year to date expenses are \$5,236 lower than budget.

Trends point to the year to date deficit, budgeted at \$7,233, to instead come in as break even.

The restricted funds account remains favorable with \$16,102.18 available in reserves.

A motion to approve the Financial Report was made, seconded, and the Vestry approved.

**Sr. Warden's Report:** None

**Jr. Warden's Report:** Kathy Oas reported the tree trimming and clearing of the vegetation obstruction by the Priest Sacristy was completed. This will be accomplished after the first of the 2018 year.

Last month, the Vestry approved up to \$1,000 out of an account to be named at the December meeting for the repairs in the Altar Guild Sacristy. Kathy is researching cost and availability of red carpet and replacement paneling.

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

**Rector Report:** Habitat Build: Fr. Eric distributed details of the Habitat Build options in a Letter of Intent created by Habitat for Humanity. With Vestry agreement, St. John's

will commit St. John's to be a partner in the Apostles' Build project, committing to provision of volunteers. In addition, St. John's will donate \$1,000 to Habitat. Sign up sheets are in the Parish Hall and announcements regarding the effort are ongoing.

Stewardship: Responses to the Stewardship Appeal letters mailed out in November continue to come in. Pledge envelopes are available and are being distributed, encouraging parishioners to pick them up since mailing is expensive. . Announcements and updates on the progress of the Appeal continues each Sunday.

The final 2018 budget was presented. With no significant changes from the Draft budget presented in November, a motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the 2018 Operational budget as presented.

Housing Allowance. A resolution for the 2018 Housing Allowance Designation for an ordained minister was distributed. The Vestry reviewed the resolution, a motion was made and seconded, and the Resolution was accepted by the Vestry. Attached.

Annual Parish Meeting, January 28, 2018: A draft agenda was distributed and reviewed by the Vestry. A theme for the meeting will be decided at the January Vestry meeting.

Fire and Liability Insurance: St. John's is seeking diocesan permission to pursue obtaining other insurance, and working with Florida Insurers to identify alternatives. The goal is to reduce premium expense.

Irrigation installation in the park was completed with thanks to Richard Huffman for his oversight of the project. It is now able to run with 6 zones and 50 sprinkler heads. Next steps - determine what to plant, when to plant it and seek recommendations from local horticulture specialists.

Vestry nominations for 3 new members, replacing Anneke Bertsch, Fred Scheunemann, and Sarah Kendall are underway for presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting (end of January 2018). Identification and recruitment of new Vestry members continue.

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention: Julie Miller volunteered, and was selected as an alternate delegate. Anneke Bertsch, Linda Fletcher, and Katie Wilson are the slate of St. John's delegates.

Other Business: A discussion about enhancing the role of Ushers to include response to emergencies was discussed. The merits of training in duties and response to emergencies was acknowledged. Peg McRee's name was discussed as the chair for the Usher team.

There being no further business, the Vestry meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:55 p.m.

**Housing Allowance Designation Resolution for an ordained minister**

Whereas, section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code specifies that the amount of a minister's compensation that is designated in advance by an employing church as a housing allowance is not taxable in computing federal income taxes to the extent that it is used to pay for actual expenses incurred in owning or renting a home or apartment, and, in the case of a minister who owns a home, does not exceed the fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities); and

Whereas, Eric Turner is  
*(name of ordained minister)*

compensated by St. John's Episcopal Church  
*(name of employer congregation)*

exclusively for services as a minister; and

Whereas, St. John's Episcopal Church  
*(name of employer congregation)*

does not provide Eric Turner  
*(name of ordained minister)*

with a parsonage; therefore, it is

Resolved, that the total compensation paid to

Eric Turner  
*(name of ordained minister)*

for calendar year 2018 shall be \$ 84,310, of which

\$ 42,000 is hereby designated as a housing allowance pursuant to section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code; and it is further

Resolved, that the designation of \$ 42,000 of

Eric Turner's annual  
*(name of ordained minister)*

compensation as a housing allowance shall apply to all future years that

Eric Turner  
*(name of ordained minister)*

is employed by St John's Episcopal Church  
*(name of employer congregation)*

unless otherwise provided.