

St. John's Episcopal Church

610 Young Street

Melbourne FL 32935

Vestry Minutes

June 20, 2019

**Present:** Anneke Bertsch, Steve Bradley Teresa Chernault, Hope Johnson, Ben Kendall, Joe McLaughlin, Linda Miller, Kathy, Oas, Lee Steininger, Eric Turner, Katie Wilson

**Absent:** Hal Martin

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m., by Father Eric with prayers and remembrances for family, friends, members and loved ones of the Vestry and the congregation.

**“Canoeing the Mountains”:** As a followup from the May Vestry meeting, Fr. Eric engaged the Vestry in review and discussion of the St. John's Mission Statement, Core Values, and Vision in the context of defining our church DNA until returning to Part 4 of Canoeing the Mountains. Within the Mission Statement, “sharing His love in word and deed” presents opportunity. Within the Core Values, “...members of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Community” is essential, affirming participatory worship and a sense of rooted-ness. Within the Vision Statement is where change may happen - “reach out to our community”, “invite others”, “providing our members opportunities for spiritual growth, learning, and service”, and “enrich our worship to provide a more uplifting experience for all and to attract new members”.

Discussion about the future development of small groups, both existing and new, to augment what is already happening. Small groups can be little arenas of experimentation for future changes.

**Minutes from June 16, 2019 Vestry meeting:** Motion made, seconded, unanimously passed to accept the minutes with minor corrections.

**Financial Report:** Fr. Eric presented the finance report for the month ending May 31, 2019. Financials contained Summary Comments, the May 2019 balance sheet, May 2019 Financial Summary and May 2019 Cash Flow, 2019 Restricted Funds Summary, and 2019 Outreach Contributions.

Revenues for the month were \$17,038 against a budget of \$17,400 – less than budget by \$362. Expenses for the month (\$18,718) were greater than budget by \$1,064. The month ended with a deficit of \$1,680 (revenues to expenses) - compared to the budget expected small deficit for the month of \$254. Projected income has fallen short for 3 months in a row and four out of five months for the year. Adding to this concern is the year to date deficit, which is \$4,931 and \$4,360 more than the budgeted deficit for the year to date. Steve presented the text of an article for the upcoming July/August Good News, outlining the current financial status and appealing to those pledgers who are running behind in their pledged amounts to get caught up. In addition, the Vestry made a motion permitting the Treasurer to move an amount deemed necessary up to \$7,070 from the Restricted Reserve Fund to the Operating Fund to cover shortfalls. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The restricted funds account ended the month with a balance of \$37,329 of which \$39,134.88 is committed. This leaves a \$1,194.17 surplus of available funds in the Restricted Fund.

2019 Outreach to date was \$1,170 to Clergy Discretionary Fund, \$776 to Pregnancy Resources, \$1,264 to Nana's House, \$680 to Habitat for Humanity, 4904.26 to Solar Light of Africa.

A motion was made, seconded, and the Vestry unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit.

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

**Jr. Warden's Report:** Kathy Oas reported there is a wheelchair in the A/C closet available to anyone needing it during church services. Anneke Bertsch donated a sofa. A vacuum cleaner was repaired and is now operational.

The upcoming Rummage Sale will need volunteers on Thursday 06/27 to move sale items from the Yellow House (formerly Flower House) to the Parish Hall. Volunteers will organize and tag items on Friday 06/28 and the sale will happen Saturday 06/29. Advertising will be placed on St. John's Facebook page, in the Brevard Yard Sale publication, and on Craig's List.

**Rector's Report:**

**Nursery:** Deacon Elizabeth is coordinating re-activation of the nursery. A group of volunteers is being identified, will go through required diocesan training and background checks, and will staff the nursery during the 10 a.m. service. The dehumidifier in the nursery will be set up to drain to the outside thus eliminating the maintenance of manually emptying the reservoir.

**Vestry Retreat follow up:** Fr. Eric spoke about ongoing discussions with the Music Minister to explore enhancing the music experience during worship.

**Small Groups:** Fr. Eric provided research results showing active worship-based small groups within a church community are key to the growth and health of the church. He encourages existing groups like choir, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, etc., to build prayer and Bible meditation into ongoing activities. Opportunities to start new small groups will be explored.

**Summer Schedule:** Fr. Eric will be away on mission leadership time for 2 weeks followed by 3 weeks' vacation during the period July 2 through August 8. Fr. Terry Highland will be the supply priest during this period. Fr. Terry and Deacon Elizabeth will fulfill pastoral duties during this period.

**Sale of Property Update:** The Diocesan Real Estate Committee notified St. John's it will wait to act on the property sale request upon the Bishop's return in August/September.

Following prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Upcoming meetings for 2019: August 15, September 19, October 17 (FPOB hosting, likely location change), November 21, December 19, and January 16, 2020.