

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the Vestry
of St. James's Episcopal Church
January 16, 2018

A regular meeting of the Vestry of St. James's Episcopal Church was held on January 16, 2018, pursuant to proper notice of time and place. Vestry members attending were Mrs. Louise Bald, Mr. Willson Craigie, Mrs. Peggy Crowley, Mr. Ralph Cummins, Mrs. Becky DeCamps, Mr. Matt Harper, Mrs. Kathe Hetzer, Mr. T.A. Hickman, Mr. Scott Hurt, Mrs. Erin Jewett, Mr. Dave Johnson, Mr. Harry Moore, Mr. Connell Mullins, Tina Sherrod, Mrs. Beth Skidmore, Mrs. Laura Strickler, and Mr. Michael Whitlow. Mr. Jay Jordan was absent. Also attending were staff members the Rev. Dr. John McCard, the Rev. Carmen Germino, the Rev. Hilary Streever, Ms. Suzanne Hall, Mr. Russell Lawson, Mrs. Anita Lisk, and Dr. Mark Whitmire. Dr. McCard served as chair, with Mrs. Lisk serving as secretary.

The meeting opened with a prayer at 5:15 p.m. Motions to adopt the agenda and approve the Minutes from the December 19, 2017 regular meeting were made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Harper remarked that all of last Sunday's services, including the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Evensong, were great. He thanked the Hospitality Committee for the lovely reception they provided following the Evensong. Dr. Whitmire commented that the attendance for the Martin Luther King Jr. Evensong was the highest yet. The current mayor, the Honorable Levar Stoney, and former mayor, the Honorable Henry Marsh, both attended, and the Honorable Roger L. Gregory, Chief United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, delivered King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

Mrs. Jewett reminded the Vestry that CARITAS will be sheltered at the church the week of January 20-27. She particularly thanked the staff for personally filling a hole in volunteer needs and commended the communications efforts for the week.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Stewardship

Ms. Hall distributed and reviewed the current "dashboard" report for the Annual Giving campaign. She was excited to report that a record 56% of the church's parishioners have made a pledge for the 2018 budget year thus far. However, approximately \$160,000 is still needed to meet the budget goal. A final solicitation will be mailed, which will include the names of those who have pledged. Ms. Hall thanked the Vestry for its leadership.

Finance

Mr. Moore reported that expenses for 2017 exceeded revenue and the budget for 2018 is not yet balanced. The budget will be presented at the February meeting for approval before the Annual Meeting on February 25. Mr. Moore remarked that the budget goal would be exceeded if everyone who had pledged last year, but have not yet for 2018, did the same.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – *Community and the World*

Mr. Mullins commented that there isn't much to report at this time.

Mrs. Hetzer distributed a written report for the Children's Center, noting that the Center recently held a strategic planning retreat, resulting in the decision to survey current donors, as well as interview donors, board members, and those in the community and early childhood education industry. The Center intends to share the results with the Vestry sometime after May.

Mr. Cummins reported that the Missions Committee will be announcing the establishment of a "Passport to Missions" scholarship program to encourage first-time mission trip participants. Several mission trips have been scheduled for this spring and summer, including:

- Rebuilding Together – a one-day service event in Richmond's East End
- Senior High Youth returning to Appalachia
- Week in Richmond
- Thistle Farms – a mission trip for women.

Ms. Germino reminded the Vestry that the annual Mardi Gras for Missions fundraiser will be on February 13, with Dick Fowlkes serving as the chair and Mark Shuford returning as the Live Auction auctioneer.

Mr. Mullins reported that the Vestry Outreach Committee recently visited the REAL Community Center, which helps inmates transition from the jail to the community in an effort to curb recidivism. The Committee is planning to visit the McShinn Foundation, an organization that helps treat addictions. Mrs. Streever announced that the church is offering a Lenten series on addiction.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Mr. Harper reported that the chimes in the steeple are in the process of being re-installed and the work should be completed soon.

SR. WARDEN'S REPORT

Mrs. Crowley reported that the Children's Center met their 2017 budget and returned the church's offering from the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service that had been designated as a gift to the Center.

Nominating Committee

Mrs. Crowley reported that the Nominating Committee had met and considered 64 nominees. The Committee presented the following slate to stand for election to the Vestry at the upcoming Annual Meeting:

For a 3-year term – Arthur (Brink) Brinkley III, Melinda Davis, Michael Smith, Trey Sibley, Karen Stanley, and Annie Witthoefft

For at 2-year term – Jim Goggins, Scott Hurt, and John Mahoney.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report from the Nominating Committee to adopt the slate, which was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Crowley concluded her report by thanking Mrs. DeCamps, who will be unable to attend her final Vestry meeting in February, and giving her a farewell gift. Mrs. Crowley noted the work of Mrs. DeCamps on several committees over her 3-year term on the Vestry, and commended her for all her efforts.

RECTOR’S REPORT

Dr. McCard said that he was looking forward to his installation service on January 17 and hoped the weather wouldn’t be a factor in attendance.

OTHER

The attendance report for December 2017 was distributed. Mr. Whitlow suggested roping off the back of the church to encourage people to sit forward, which would better fill the pews seen in the video transmission.

Dr. McCard reminded the Vestry to review all the upcoming events listed on the reverse of the agenda. Mrs. Streever particularly encouraged attendance at the different Lenten series opportunities. Mr. Harper also encouraged the Vestry to attend the upcoming Sunday Forum about Alzheimer’s Disease.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with a benediction by Dr. McCard at 6:10 p.m.

Anita Lisk
Secretary

Approved:

Rev. Dr. John McCard
Rector

Peggy Crowley
Senior Warden