

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
Of the Vestry
Of St. James's Episcopal Church, Richmond
October 15, 2013

A regular meeting of the vestry of St. James's Episcopal Church was held on October 15, 2013, pursuant to proper notice of time and place. Vestry members attending were Mr. Ryon Acey, Mrs. Louise Bowles, Mr. DeWitt Casler, Ms. Mimi Herington, Mr. Knox Hubard, Mr. Jay Jennings, Mr. Michael Lantz, Mr. Steve McCoy, Ms. Mary Watt New, Ms. Gloria Prevatt, Mrs. Kendal Sibley, Mr. Geoff Sisk, Mrs. Bobbie Ukrop, Mrs. Britt Van Deusen, Mr. Stephen Watts, and Mrs. Norvell Whitaker. Mrs. Margy Brown and Mrs. Kathryn West were absent. Also present were the Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith, the Rev. Ann Dieterle, the Rev. Carmen Germino, the Rev. Alex Riffie, Mr. Russell Lawson, Mrs. Poconna Thiel, Mrs. Emily Thrower, and Mr. Chip Woodson. Mr. Hollerith served as chairman, with Mrs. Thrower serving as secretary.

The meeting opened at 5:00 p.m. with a service of Evening Prayer. The business of the meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Hollerith resumed the discussion of Diana Butler Bass' book, Christianity After Religion. Everyone was asked to read Mr. Hollerith's handout on Harvey Cox's writing about the "Age of the Spirit" with these questions in mind and email their thoughts to him for next month's discussion. Does the "Age of the Spirit" resonate for you? What would you want St. James's to be for you? What do we need to feed our spiritual journey?

Motions to adopt the agenda and approve the Minutes from the September 17, 2013 regular meeting were made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Acey complimented the Study Commission for the Bible Challenge initiative. He said many parishioners were enjoying reading the scriptures as a group and for the benefits of group discussion.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Operating Budget

Mr. Jennings distributed the monthly financial reports and reviewed the income and expenses through the end of September, as well as the activity in the reserve accounts. He noted that \$50,000 was borrowed from cash reserves to meet budgeted needs and would be re-deposited by the end of the year. We are about where we were at this time in 2012 with slightly less in income.

Mr. Jennings gave an update concerning the water damage and insurance claim, \$36,174 has been paid for repairs as of September 13 and not all invoices are in yet. The insurance has given us \$83,225 and \$10,000 was taken from capital reserves for the

deductible. There may be another approximate \$10,000 payment from the insurance company if the total comes in over \$83,225.

Our audit should be completed by the November meeting.

COMMISSIONS REPORTS

FOUNDATION COMMISSION

Stewardship

Mr. Woodson reported that all members of the vestry have submitted their pledge cards and thanked everyone. Thirty-four pledges have already been received for 2014. There is a gift of \$5,000 from a new pledging unit along with two more new gifts. The 2013-14 case statement and pledge cards are being put together and will be mailed this week.

Mr. Sisk reported that \$13,000 (23 gifts) has been received so far for the Challenge Fund and that the vestry has participated in that also. A separate pledge letter was written to those who did not pledge in 2013 highlighting the Challenge Fund opportunity. Mr. Hollerith will announce the Challenge Fund total at the Feast. So far, 378 people have registered for the Feast on October 23.

Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Watts submitted a written report.

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Mrs. Bowles asked about quotes for a new audio system and Mr. Watts responded that information was not yet available.

Hospitality

The Hospitality committee provided a generous reception for the Blessing of the Animals. A large reception will be provided for the concert to honor the 100th birthday of Benjamin Britten on Friday, November 22.

Call & Welcome

Ms. Herington said seven newcomers came to the last meet and greet reception. Wyatt and Mason Beazley will host a fall newcomer's dinner on November 24. A Wednesday night supper date will be chosen to extend a special invitation to newcomers to attend. They will receive written invitations and tables will be reserved for them. Mr. Hollerith said there are 34 newcomers in Pilgrim's Path this year and it seems like a good group.

Worship

Ms. Germino talked about Jazz Mass and the move to Valentine Hall. The space has proven to be more flexible for the changes that have been made to the liturgy and worship. We are trying to build community among the attendees in a less formal space. She echoed the comments from Diana Butler Bass and the "Age of the Spirit" about people wanting their spiritual journey to be about finding community and being together and not only about reciting creeds. To that end, we are worshiping in the "living room" of

the church and blessing a “full meal” and the fellowship begins immediately as each person takes communion and gathers around the altar or moves about within the congregation. The feast is Middle Eastern in theme with participants sometimes bringing food offerings with them.

Mr. Hollerith said that he and Mr. Lawson would be discussing advertising and promotion for the service and thanked those on the staff who have worked so hard to make this service a dynamic addition to our worship schedule.

STUDY COMMISSION

Mrs. Sibley reported that St. James’s will be among the satellite locations for the November 16 Richmond Forum presentation on Islam. Forum panelists include Ayaan Hirsi Ali, author of the book Infidel; Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, founder of the Cordoba Initiative, a multi-faith organization that is dedicated to improving Muslim-West relations; and, Maajid Nawaz, a former Muslim extremist who now works to promote democracy in the Muslim world. The program is expected to generate great interest, and Valentine Hall will open at 7:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 8:00 p.m.

LIAISONS

Episcopal Church Women

Ms. Prevatt reported the ECW is busy getting ready for the Taste of St. James’s event on November 20, co-chaired by Laura McCoy and Louise Bald. Children have requested to put artwork in the art show and they will be welcomed!

The next ECW lecture is November 5 at noon in Valentine Hall.

Children’s Center

Mrs. Whitaker reported the Children’s Center is halfway to meeting a \$50,000 challenge grant.

SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT

Mr. McCoy thanked the Vestry for making their pledges for 2013-14. He read a resolution commending David Barnett for his years of service to St. James’s and moved its adoption. It was adopted unanimously and it will be presented to Mr. Barnett.

Mr. McCoy commended Stephen Watts for his three years of serving as Junior Warden. Mrs. Van Deusen has agreed to shadow Mr. Watts for the next few months to learn about the responsibilities of a Junior Warden. The 2014 vestry will elect a new Junior Warden.

CARITAS Intake is October 19-December 20, and Mr. McCoy encouraged vestry members to participate as nightly hosts at Michaux House. It only requires about an hour each evening. Margaret Corwin is chairing the project and will send those interested in volunteering an invitation to her online sign-up page. Volunteers are asked to bring snacks (cookies, chips, fruit, cheese sticks) when they come. We are hosting women this year.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hollerith announced that Matt Presson has agreed to serve as our interim facilities manager on a part-time basis while we conduct a search for a permanent person. Mrs. Ukrop and Mr. Casler said they took the CPR class offered by Mr. Presson and learned a lot.

Mr. Hollerith will attend the Shrine Mont parish retreat overnight on Friday and return for church on Sunday morning. He will be the featured speaker at the Feast of St. James's.

OTHER

The Vestry was apprised of upcoming events on a separate handout.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Emily Thrower
Scribe

Approved:

Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Rector

Steve McCoy
Senior Warden