

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
Of the Vestry
Of St. James's Episcopal Church, Richmond
November 18, 2014

A regular meeting of the vestry of St. James's Episcopal Church was held on November 18, 2014, pursuant to proper notice of time and place. Vestry members attending were Mr. Ryon Acey, Mrs. Peggy Crowley, Mrs. Carol Ann Fuller, Mr. Matt Harper, Ms. Mimi Herington, Mr. Knox Hubard, Mr. Michael Lantz, Mr. Steve McCoy, Mrs. Carrie Montague, Mr. Harry Moore, Ms. Gloria Prevatt, Mrs. Kendal Sibley, Mr. Geoff Sisk, Mrs. Britt Van Deusen, Mrs. Bobbie Ukrop, Mrs. Kathryn West, and Mrs. Norvell Whitaker. Mr. Allan Rees was absent. Also present were the Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith, Mr. Russell Lawson, Mrs. Emily Thrower, Mrs. Virginia Whitmire and Mr. Chip Woodson. Mr. Hollerith served as chairman, with Mrs. Thrower serving as scribe.

The meeting began at 5:30 p.m. in Valentine Hall.

Motions to adopt the agenda was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. Friendly amendments were made to the Minutes from the October 28, 2014 regular meeting and a motion was made, seconded, and the amended Minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Hollerith thanked all who worked to make the Taste of St. James's such a success. The committee has everything ready for the November 19 event. He also told the vestry that the pilgrims to the Holy Land would return on November 19, and it appears that the trip has been a great success that we will hear much about in the months to come.

Mr. Hollerith commented on a recent diocesan communication concerning The Rev. Michael Cadaret, formerly at Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Mr. Cadaret has been censored and prohibited from serving as a priest for a period of two years. All rectors, and vestries in the Diocese and Standing Committees through the church have received the notice from the Diocese.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Acey distributed and reviewed the financial reports and the year-to-date income and expense report.

STEWARDSHIP

Mr. Woodson distributed a written report. Mr. Sisk told the members that 226 families/individuals who pledged last fall have not submitted pledges for this year. They will receive handwritten notes from the committee asking for pledge participation in this year's campaign.

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Mr. Lantz reported that about 20 newcomers will be welcomed at a party at Dr. and Mrs. Wyatt Beazley's home on November 23.

The website upgrade work is continuing. A survey has been sent out to church members with questions about a variety of pages on the site. Audio in worship services has improved along with webcast audio.

Mrs. Whitmire reported that the Children's Choir has 46 members this year and the Youth Choir has 23. The choir-supported mission to Jacmel, Haiti earlier in November was well-staffed and successful.

STUDY COMMISSION

Mrs. Sibley presented a detailed written report on developing activities for all age groups. She told the vestry that Mary Beth Abplanalp is developing a youth ministry plan for sustainable growth and recruiting parents and other interested adults to work with youth. She told the vestry to expect an increase in the youth ministry budget request next year.

Mr. Hollerith reported that Mary Beth Abplanalp gave her spiritual autobiography to a full room at the Sunday morning Forum earlier this month.

After Christmas, adult Sunday morning study will include Bible study, small group short courses and forums. The Forum will be scheduled once a month with no other adult classes scheduled on that day. Bible study and short courses will be offered on the other Sundays in the month.

Mr. Hollerith commented that the Forum will still schedule groups like social service agencies presenting their missions. The small group short courses will cover nurturing topics like marriage enrichment. One goal is to have a Sunday morning study schedule for the fall in place when a full-time person is hired for the clergy position. Topical information will be available early in the new year.

Ms. Herington reported that December worship will include a December 8 memorial service for those who have lost children. The holidays can be harder for families who have lost children and the service, held at St. Stephen's, is supported by area Episcopal congregations, including St. James's. The service has been promoted in multiple communications vehicles at St. James's.

LIAISON REPORTS

Children's Center

Mrs. Whitaker reported that volunteers have made and will sell cross necklaces at the Taste of St. James's and on Sunday mornings in Advent to benefit the Center.

The Center's Christmas party is Monday, December 15 and the Vestry is invited. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will make an appearance.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Hollerith led the Vestry in a continued discussion of the possibility of blessing same sex unions at St. James's, following his introduction of the subject at the October meeting. Mr. Hollerith had previously distributed the Bishop's guidance regarding the subject, as well as the liturgy for the blessing of same sex unions, and Mr. Hollerith answered questions regarding those items. After discussion and on motion made and seconded, the Vestry voted unanimously to support Mr. Hollerith's proposal to bless same sex unions at St. James's.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Mr. McCoy presented a revised version of a resolution on energy efficiency goals and it was adopted unanimously by the Vestry.

Mr. McCoy requested that Vestry members contact him with names of potential candidates for the slate to be presented for election to the Vestry at the Annual Meeting in February.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hollerith asked the vestry to think about the future of St. James's and the strategic plan. He asked the members to compose questions and comments about where they would like to see the ministry of the congregation headed in five years.

OTHER

Mr. Sisk commented that corporate sponsors for the 2015 bike races may be interested in using or renting church space for hospitality events in the fall.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Emily Thrower
Scribe

Approved:

Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Rector

Steve McCoy
Senior Warden