

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the Vestry
of St. James's Episcopal Church
February 20, 2018

A regular meeting of the Vestry of St. James's Episcopal Church was held on February 20, 2018, pursuant to proper notice of time and place. Vestry members attending were Mrs. Peggy Crowley, Mr. Ralph Cummins, Mr. Matt Harper, Mrs. Kathe Hetzer, Mr. T.A. Hickman, Mr. Scott Hurt, Mrs. Erin Jewett, Mr. Dave Johnson, Mr. Jay Jordan, Mr. Harry Moore, Mr. Connell Mullins, Tina Sherrod, Mrs. Beth Skidmore, Mrs. Laura Strickler, and Mr. Michael Whitlow. Mrs. Louise Bald, Mr. Willson Craigie and Mrs. Becky DeCamps were absent. Also attending were staff members the Rev. Dr. John McCard, the Rev. Hilary Streever, Mr. Russell Lawson, Mrs. Anita Lisk, Mrs. Poconna Thiel, and Dr. Mark Whitmire. Dr. McCard served as chair, with Mrs. Lisk serving as secretary.

The meeting began at 5:00 p.m. with a service of Holy Eucharist, with the business of the meeting beginning at 5:30. Motions to adopt the agenda and approve the Minutes from the January 16, 2018 regular meeting were made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Dr. McCard displayed the gift given by the Vestry for his installation as St. James's 14th Rector. All agreed the service of installation was beautiful and meaningful.

All agreed that the recent Mardi Gras for Missions fundraiser was a success and Dr. McCard commented that it lived up to his expectations. The final amount raised was not yet available.

Mrs. Skidmore noted that WomanKind2018 was scheduled for the coming weekend, with more than 300 women registered for the symposium thus far.

Dr. McCard announced that his wife, Cynthia, would be having shoulder surgery next week and asked that Vestry members keep her in their prayers.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Stewardship

It was reported that 694 pledges had been received with more than \$2 million pledged and an additional \$10,900 in gifts.

Finance

Mr. Moore distributed the financial report insert for the 2017 Annual Report, which will be distributed at the upcoming Annual Meeting on February 25. He reported that the 2018 budget is a 3.9% increase over 2017, with the income from stewardship 7.6% over 2017, for a total budget of \$2,549,916.

Mr. Moore announced that the budget includes a modest increase in staff salaries and several program requests were fully funded. He expressed continuing concern that there is no budget allotment for the Capital Reserve Fund and that the operating budget continues to rely heavily on

the Endowment for certain operating expenses. Mr. Hickman noted that the budget presented is lean and all income must be realized to balance it at the end of the year. Mr. Johnson commented that the annual Feast of St. James's is not in the 2018 budget. Mrs. Crowley remarked that she will announce at the Annual Meeting that the Feast will not be held in 2018, but that other types of gathering opportunities will be considered. Mrs. Crowley emphasized that this year's Annual Giving Campaign realized the most pledges made and most total pledge amount ever.

Mr. Moore moved that the budget be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Dr. McCard thanked Mr. Moore for his dedicated service as the Finance Chair and he and Mrs. Crowley presented Mr. Moore with farewell gifts in appreciation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – *God in Christ*

A written report for the *God in Christ* committees was distributed.

Worship

Mrs. Strickler highlighted the planned transition in the Altar Guild, Flower Guild, and for Memorial Flowers. She also noted the spectacular music for the Feast, Martin Luther King, Jr. Evensong, and Dr. McCard's installation, and noted that the music for WomanKind2018 and the Dylan Mass is expected to be wonderful.

Adult Formation

Mrs. Hetzer highlighted the upcoming "Ache of Addiction" Lenten speaker series, noting that efforts have been made to have volunteers shepherd guests who may be unfamiliar with the facility.

Mrs. Streever announced that a new baptism orientation for new and expecting parents was recently offered, with about fifteen participating.

Mrs. Streever also announced that over 200 "Lent in a Bag" with devotional materials were distributed on Ash Wednesday and on the first Sunday in Lent.

Young Adults

Mr. Hurt reported that the "Second Quarter" ministry is preparing for the annual Holy Saturday Stations of the Cross walk on Belle Isle. He announced that young adults will be invited to a spring party at Mary Beth and Chris Abplanalp's home, but an overnight retreat at the river is not planned for this year.

Youth

Mr. Hurt reported that the recent Snowfest retreat for youth – even without the snow – was again a great success. The youth and chaperones stayed at Shrine Mont and enjoyed faith-building activities and terrific bonding experiences. Youth will again prepare the pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday.

Senior High Youth have elected to return to Appalachia and the town of Hurley in southwest Virginia for this summer's Youth Mission trip. The Junior High mini-mission trip will return to the Eastern Shore to glean crops with Harvest of Hope.

Mr. Hurt announced that the Youth Ministry Committee is recruiting new adult leadership and asked for recommendations. The committee is focusing on creating meaningful events for the youth in the parish.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Hickman reminded Vestry members that the Vestry has taken on the responsibility of counting the weekly plate collection and circulated a sign-up sheet for the year.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Johnson reported that the Strategic Stewardship Committee recently held a retreat to aid in creating a strategic stewardship plan for the next several years.

The final statistical report for 2017 was distributed. Dr. McCard particularly noted that attendance had dropped in 2017 but attendance figures for January 2018 shows improvement.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Mr. Harper distributed a summary of the Maintenance, Safety and Security, and Accessibility priorities, as determined by the Strategic Buildings & Grounds Committee. He reported that the services of Huff Morris and Engineers Plus have been retained, as the Vestry agreed at the January meeting.

Mr. Harper reported that issues with the plaster around the air conditioning ductwork in the sanctuary ceiling has reoccurred and he will meet with Bobby Garland of Taylor & Parrish construction firm, Huff Morris, and others to evaluate the issue.

Dr. McCard thanked Mr. Harper for his service as Junior Warden and he and Mrs. Crowley presented Mr. Harper with farewell gifts in appreciation.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Mrs. Crowley thanked everyone for their patience and extra meetings during the transition year. She recognized and thanked all those who will be rotating off the Vestry this year – Mr. Craigie, Mrs. DeCamps, Mr. Harper, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Moore, Mr. Mullins, and Mrs. Sherrod. Mrs. Crowley particularly thanked Mr. Harper and Mr. Moore for serving with her as the leadership for the Vestry the past two years. Mrs. Crowley announced that she was donating a wireless communications phone to use for conference calls.

The Vestry gave Mrs. Crowley a standing ovation in recognition of her service, with several members offering accolades for her leadership.

Dr. McCard commented that he appreciated the time and efforts of all the Vestry members rotating off this year, but particularly that of Mrs. Crowley, Mr. Harper, and Mr. Moore. Dr. McCard presented farewell gifts in appreciation. Mrs. Skidmore announced that the Hospitality Committee had prepared a reception following the meeting to honor the retiring Vestry members.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. McCard thanked all the Vestry members and recalled that it was on February 27, 2017 that he received a call from Scott Ukrop, a member of the Search Committee, asking him to consider a call to St. James's. He expressed his delight that the Holy Spirit had brought him to this place.

OTHER

The attendance report for January 2018 was distributed.

Dr. McCard reminded the Vestry to review all the upcoming events listed on the reverse of the agenda. He particularly noted the upcoming Vestry Installation on Sunday, March 11, and the Vestry Retreat on Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with a benediction by Dr. McCard at 6:45p.m.

Anita Lisk
Secretary

Approved:

Rev. Dr. John McCard
Rector

Peggy Crowley
Senior Warden