

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
Of the Vestry
Of St. James's Episcopal Church, Richmond
April 17, 2012

A regular meeting of the vestry of St. James's Episcopal Church was held on April 17, 2012, pursuant to proper notice of time and place. Vestry members attending were Mr. Ryon Acey, Mrs. Louise Bowles, Mrs. Margy Brown, Mr. DeWitt Casler, Ms. Mimi Herington, Mr. Scott Hetzer, Mr. Jay Jennings, Mr. Michael Lantz, Mr. Steve McCoy, Mrs. Dena Moore, Ms. Mary Watt New, Ms. Newnie Rogers, Mrs. Kendal Sibley, Mrs. Britt Van Deusen, and Mr. Jody Wilcox. Dr. Jan Harris, Mr. Monty McFadden, and Mr. Stephen Watts were absent. Also attending were the Rev. Randolph Hollerith, the Rev. Ann Dieterle, the Rev. Carmen Germino, the Rev. Alex Riffie, Mrs. Anita Lisk, Mrs. Poconna Thiel, Mrs. Virginia Whitmire, and Mr. Chip Woodson. Mr. Hollerith served as chairman, with Mrs. Lisk serving as secretary.

Mr. Hollerith convened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. with a prayer.

Motions to adopt the agenda and approve the Minutes from the March 20, 2012 meeting were made, seconded and unanimously approved.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Jennings commented that the recent Sunday Forum with Mr. J.P. Causey speaking about the upcoming Episcopal Church USA General Convention was very informative. Mr. Jennings recommended that members of the Vestry read Mr. Causey's article in the spring 2012 issue of the Virginia Episcopalian Magazine. Mr. Causey suggests that there will be five important issues considered at the convention:

1. A 3-year budget ;
2. Whether or not to sign the Anglican Covenant;
3. Election of committee to nominate a successor of the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, whose term as presiding bishop expires in 2015;
4. Possible liturgies to recognized same-sex unions; and
5. Restructuring of the ECUSA at the national level

Mr. Jennings also remarked that specific resolutions to the convention will be available to review online sometime in May.

Mr. Hollerith announced that he and Ms. Dieterle will be preparing summer forums to address some of these issues so that parishioners are aware of them.

Ms. Herington noted that attendance at the recent Easter services were impressive and Mrs. Van Deusen commended the choirs for the beautiful music.

Mr. Hollerith announced that the election of the next Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia is scheduled for Saturday, April 21. The "walk about" to meet the candidates held at St. James's went very well.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – JAY JENNINGS, CHAIR

Mr. Jennings distributed monthly financial reports and reviewed the income and expenses. He remarked that there were good pledge receipts in March and the finances of the church are in good shape for the first three months of the year. Mr. Jennings also noted that there is over \$100,000 in the Mardi Gras Reserved Funds.

COMMISSIONS REPORTS

WORSHIP COMMISSION – JAN HARRIS, CHAIR

Worship

Mrs. Whitmire said that the music department is preparing for end-of-year programs and recognitions of the Cherub, Children's and Youth Choirs, the Jazz Eucharist scheduled on May 20, and the Festival Choir and Orchestra presentation of the Bernstein *Chichester Psalms* and Rutter *Gloria* to open the Welcome Summer Recital Series in June.

Hospitality and Call & Welcome

Ms. Herington reported the Call & Welcome committee met recently and the Hospitality committee is scheduled to meet soon. A newcomer party will be held on June 24 at the home of Louise and Russell Bowles.

The Hospitality committee provided dinner in Valentine Hall for the Bishop Suffragan candidates, their spouses, and members of the Diocesan Transition committee before the recent "walk about" at St. James's.

STUDY COMMISSION – KENDAL SIBLEY, CHAIR

Ms. Sibley distributed a written report which included brief highlights about the programming for Adult Christian Formation, Young Adults, Children's Christian Formation, and Youth.

Young Adults

Ms. Sibley reported that there's been good interest and participation in the Young Adult monthly hiking opportunities.

Children's Ministries

Mrs. Kent Duffey, Director of Children's Ministries, submitted a written report, which provided attendance figures for Sunday School, information about the upcoming *Growing in Faith* curriculum rotation, and the children's participation in the Every Member Ministry. A *Godly Play* class for children and parents has been scheduled in late April to introduce families who will be new to this curriculum in the 2012-13 program year.

Mrs. Sibley noted that 70 people have been involved in Children's Ministries this year and that many children returned mite boxes to flower the cross on Easter morning.

Youth Ministries

Mr. Riffie reported that the Junior Youth Group will have a “lock-in” in the Michaux House the end of April and the Senior Youth Group is planning day trips to the James River and the beach.

SERVICE COMMISSION – MONTY MCFADDEN, CHAIR

Mr. McFadden and Ms. Nancy Warman, Director of Servant Ministry, each submitted a written report.

Out-reach and In-reach

Mr. Acey reported that there’s been a good response to this year’s “Every Member’s Ministry” (EMM), many from parishioners engaging in new ministry. Cards are still being received.

Mr. Acey also reported that the Vestry Outreach committee, chaired by Connell Mullins, has been meeting monthly at agencies which have previously received a grant from the Vestry Outreach Fund. The committee expects to determine this year’s grant recipients in May.

Missions

Mr. Hetzer reported that a “Sudan Summit” involving people interested in the mission trip to the Southern Sudan was recently held to discuss whether or not to continue this mission. The group intends to meet with the Missions committee for further discussion.

The surgery for the child from St. Vincents, who was to be sponsored by St. James’s through the World Pediatric Project, has been delayed. At least 15 parishioners have volunteered for this mission and they will be contacted once the new dates are determined.

FOUNDATION COMMISSION – STEPHEN WATTS, CHAIR

Stewardship – Chip Woodson

Mr. Woodson distributed previous Vestry statements on Annual Giving and Planned Giving and the Fan the Flame Capital Campaign and noted that the Annual Giving pledges are as expected. Mr. Woodson said that the Planned Giving committee has scheduled an event at Westminster Canterbury in April and revealed a new logo, created by Richard Rumble, for the Legacy Society. The Legacy Society currently has 136 members. Ms. Rogers said that members of the committee will follow up with those who attended the Westminster Canterbury event and announced that Dr. and Mrs. Wyatt Beazley have agreed to host a Planned Giving event in their home in the fall.

Fan the Flame quarterly statements have recently been mailed and pledges continue to be received, though approximately \$266,000 is in arrears.

Mr. Woodson re-introduced the proposed Annual and Planned Giving Vestry Statements, which included a suggested change in the Annual Giving Statement. Mr. Woodson said that it is important to have these statements from the Vestry to serve as examples to the parish. A motion was made and seconded and, following discussion, the Vestry unanimously adopted the following as their Annual Giving Statement:

Vestry Statement on Annual Giving

What we give to the Church's work in the world depends on the relationship each of us has with God. In considering a level of commitment, we must reflect on and pray about our thankfulness to God for the good things given to us in this life. The Vestry encourages charitable giving, with the hope that a pledge to support God's work at St. James's will be an individual's or family's largest charitable gift.

The Vestry acknowledges the Biblical tithe of 10% of annual income as the standard of giving to God's work in the world. We strongly encourage our fellow Vestry members and parishioners to be mindful of the tithe as we prayerfully consider our financial commitment to the vital work and ministry of this congregation in our community and in the world.

We further recognize that in order to expect parishioners to contribute a larger percentage of their giving and time to St. James's, the Church must communicate clearly how it uses its resources to support the ministries and maintenance of St. James's.

On a motion made and seconded, the Vestry unanimously adopted the following as their Planned Giving Statement:

Vestry Statement on Planned Giving

In deep gratitude for the gifts that God has given us, we, the Vestry of St. James's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia, wholeheartedly approve and support the planned giving ministry of our parish. The health of our church is built on the generosity of many, some of whom are no longer with us. We give thanks for their gracious gifts while we recognize the responsibility each succeeding generation has to future generations and the continued strength of our parish.

We believe in the importance of returning to God part of what God has given us. Therefore, when we consider or review our individual estate plans we commit ourselves to make some provision for the St. James's Endowment Fund, Inc. should our individual circumstances permit. We encourage every member of the parish to do the same.

LIAISONS

Episcopal Church Women – Newnie Rogers

Ms. Rogers reported that samples of dishes that will be prepared for the next "Taste of St. James's" and a cooking presentation will be featured at the ECW annual meeting and spring party. Ms. Rogers also said that Mrs. Van Deusen has set up a Facebook page for the ECW.

Children's Center – Michael Lantz

Mr. Lantz reported that fundraising campaign for the John Conrad, Jr. Scholarship Fund will target non-parishioners. The Children's Center Board is considering adding new members. The Center also has a new website: www.stjchildrenscenter.org.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Mrs. Moore reported that she and Mr. Watts will be working on Buildings and Grounds issues over the summer.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hollerith remarked that, while the staff is fatigued following Holy Week and Easter activities, programming continues with much activity in the coming months. Mr. Hollerith recommended, and the Vestry agreed, that the parish office hours during the summer be cut back to 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and closed on Fridays, to give the staff some time to re-energize and refresh before the next program year begins.

Mr. Hollerith commented that the staff has been dealing with several serious cases of illness in the parish, particularly noting the pastoral concerns for Claire Horton, Ann Rawls, Vienna Cobb Anderson, and Brad Tazewell. Mr. Hollerith was asked by friends of both the Horton family and the Tazewell family to develop and lead a prayer service with Holy Eucharist for them. The Hortons and their friends expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to get together to pray for Claire and said that the service was very moving. The choir also held a prayer service for the Hortons, Ann Rawls, and Vienna Cobb Anderson, all of whom are active in the choir, and have begun a "prayer chain" for Claire, with choristers praying for her recovery from 6:00 a.m. through midnight every day. The prayer service for Brad Tazewell and his family is scheduled for later this week.

Mr. Hollerith announced that the staff will have a planning retreat at Shrine Mont at the end of May.

Mr. Hollerith also thanked all those who have served as Vestry Greeters on Sundays.

The service attendance report for January/February/March was distributed. Mr. Hollerith reminded the Vestry to be mindful of the Strategic Plan goals included in their materials, encouraged the Vestry to read all the written reports, and to take note of the dates and events on the reverse of the agenda.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Anita Lisk
Clerk

Approved:

Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Rector

Dena Moore
Senior Warden