

Minutes of a Called Meeting
of the Vestry
of St. James's Episcopal Church
Friday, June 23, 2017

A called meeting of the Vestry of St. James's Episcopal Church was held on Friday, June 23, 2017, in the Parkinson Room, 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, 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, Mrs. Beth Skidmore, Mrs. Laura Strickler, and Mr. Michael Whitlow. Mr. Matt Harper and Mrs. Tina Sherrod were absent. Also attending were members of the Rector Search Committee Margaret Corwin, Ida Farinholt, Helen Kemp, Laura McCoy, Newnie Rogers, Trey Sibley, Scott Ukrop, Charlie Whitaker, and Chip Woodson. Members of the staff attending were the Rev. Dr. Thom Blair and Mrs. Anita Lisk. Mrs. Crowley served as chair, with Mrs. Lisk serving as secretary.

Dr. Blair opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. with a prayer. Mrs. Crowley welcomed everyone and thanked the Search Committee for their efforts to bring forward a candidate to serve as the church's next Rector.

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Whitaker reviewed the search process, which included a survey of the parish that determined that the Committee should seek someone who satisfied these criteria:

- Vibrant
- Warm
- Masterful leader
- Servant

Their national search led the Committee to a unanimous vote on one candidate who the Committee felt was a good fit and who had been led to them by the Holy Spirit. Mr. Whitaker distributed a fact sheet on the candidate, the Rev. Dr. John McCard. Mr. Whitaker thanked Mr. Ukrop for encouraging Dr. McCard to submit an application for the position.

Mr. Whitaker presented the following formal nomination from the Search Committee:

The Search Committee of St. James's Episcopal Church, having been commissioned by the Vestry with the task of nominating a candidate for consideration to be the fourteenth Rector of the church, is pleased to offer a unanimous motion to the Vestry to respectfully consider issuing a call to the Rev. Dr. John F. McCard as the fourteenth and next Rector of the church this 23rd day of June, 2017.

Mr. Whitaker requested that the Vestry consider this nomination and vote upon it at the called meeting on Saturday, June 24, 2017.

In addition to a written statement from Dr. Campbell Delk, each member of the Search Committee present gave testimonials on why they had determined that Dr. McCard was the candidate they recommended, including

- Excellent references
- Warm and humble personality
- Appeal to multiple demographics and successful church growth
- Pastoral nature
- Mature, well-rounded, collaborative, and spiritual leader
- Strong management skills
- Clear communication
- Good balance of empathy, compassion, and structure
- A sense of a good fit for the parish

Mr. Whitaker thanked the Committee for being a part of what turned out to be an emotional and spirit-led process. He also thanked Mrs. Crowley and the transition committee for putting together such a great team. Mr. Whitaker said that the Committee worked together for the good of all of St. James's without individual agendas and the Vestry should have confidence in the Committee's work, sacrifice and commitment over the past year. Members of the Committee present praised Mr. Whitaker's outstanding leadership.

Mr. Whitlow thanked the Committee for their powerful witness to the search process and commitment to their chosen candidate.

Following questions for the Search Committee, Mrs. Crowley explained the process to come. The Vestry will meet John and Cynthia McCard at the home of Mr. Whitaker this evening. Dr. McCard will be interviewed by the Vestry at 9:00 a.m., tomorrow, Saturday, June 24. Members of the Vestry were asked to submit questions to Mrs. Crowley for the interview. Dr. McCard will be excused after the interview and the Vestry will vote. In anticipation of a unanimous vote, Mrs. Crowley said that arrangements are being made to create an introductory video for the parish, as well as coordinating other methods of communicating the news of the call to both parishes. Bishop Shannon must sign the Letter of Agreement. The Vestry and Search Committee were reminded of the continued need for confidentiality in the meantime.

Mrs. DeCamps and Mrs. Jewett thanked Mrs. Crowley and Dr. Blair for their leadership and the members of the Search Committee for all their efforts during the past year. Mr. Moore commented that he felt the Holy Spirit and Mr. Hollerith's presence when the Search Committee was put together.

Mrs. Crowley announced that she will establish a transition committee for Dr. McCard and welcomed recommendations for committee members. To help increase the number of parishioners Dr. McCard gets to know quickly, Mr. Sibley suggested that neither Vestry nor Search Committee members serve as transition committee members.

Dr. Blair remarked that the Search Committee should be proud of their work. He said it was important for the Vestry to trust the Committee's work and judgment. Dr. Blair suggested the Vestry ask questions that will help to get to know Dr. McCard, rather than consider the meeting another job interview.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m. with a meeting with Dr. McCard scheduled for the following day, June 24, at 9:00 a.m. in the Parkinson Room.

Anita Lisk
Secretary

Approved:

Rev. Dr. Thom Blair
Interim Rector

Peggy Crowley
Senior Warden