

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
Of the Vestry
Of St. James's Episcopal Church, Richmond
August 20, 2013

A regular meeting of the vestry of St. James's Episcopal Church was held on August 20, 2013, pursuant to proper notice of time and place. Vestry members attending were Mr. Ryon Acey, Mrs. Louise Bowles, Mr. DeWitt Casler, Mr. Knox Hubbard, Mr. Jay Jennings, Mr. Michael Lantz, 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. Kathryn West. Mrs. Margy Brown, Ms. Mimi Herington, Mr. Steve McCoy, and Mrs. Norvell Whitaker were absent. Also present were the Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith, the Rev. Ann Dieterle, the Rev. Carmen Germino, the Rev. Alex Riffie, Mrs. Anita Lisk, Mrs. Poconna Thiel, and Mr. Russell Lawson. Mr. Hollerith served as chairman, with Mrs. Lisk 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.

Motions to adopt the agenda and approve the Minutes from the May 21, 2013 regular meeting were made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Mr. Hollerith introduced theories presented by Diana Butler Bass in her book, *Christianity After Religion*. Ms. Butler Bass writes about the emerging church and how current religious institutions need to prepare for a change in church practices in the future.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Election of Diocesan Council Alternates

Ms. Mickie Jones was nominated for another two-year term as an Alternate to Diocesan Council and Ms. Newnie Rogers was nominated for her first two-year term as an Alternate. There being no further nominations, on a motion made and seconded, Ms. Jones and Ms. Rogers were unanimously elected.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Watts commented that he had accompanied the choir on its recent tour of Italy and reported that the parish should be proud of the group. Mr. Watts said that the tour was well-organized and the choir sang beautifully. Mr. Jennings also commented that he had seen several of the concerts and agreed with Mr. Watts. Several videos of the choir singing can be seen on the Internet through Facebook or YouTube.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Operating Budget

Mr. Jennings distributed the monthly financial reports and reviewed the income and expenses through the end of July, as well as the activity in the reserve accounts. Mr. Jennings noted that July pledge receivables were good and he attributed that to the statement and letter that was sent at the beginning of the month.

Given that pledge income is not as expected when the budget was approved, the staff has been asked to cut expenses, and some of those cuts are reflected in the distributed amended budget. Mr. Jennings expects to need to use some of the cash reserves in the early fall, repaying them later in the year.

Stewardship

Mr. Woodson submitted a written report, which noted that plans for the annual Feast of St. James's are underway.

Mr. Hollerith reiterated that the staff is curbing expenses wherever possible, since pledge income is not as much as expected. Mr. Hollerith said that there may be a \$10,000 shortfall this fiscal year.

COMMISSIONS REPORTS

Vestry goals for 2013-14 were distributed as a reminder.

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Mrs. Bowles distributed a written report, which included a chart of events in 2012-13 provided by the Call & Welcome and Hospitality committees. "Meet & Greet" gatherings at church and a fall party for newcomers are planned for 2013-14, including an "Invite a Friend" Sunday. Mrs. Bowles reported that the Call and Welcome committee will be working with Russell Lawson to have available on the website information typically mailed to those new to the church.

STUDY COMMISSION

Mrs. Sibley distributed a written report, noting that all areas of study programming are preparing for the new program year, which begins September 8. Parishioners will be invited to join the "Bible Challenge" and read all of the New Testament this program year.

Sunday School

Mrs. Sibley said that the committee is anticipating the usual joyful chaos typical of the beginning of the Sunday school year.

Youth

Mr. Riffie reported that he plans to implement a new program and curriculum for 6th – 12th grades. All students in those grades will gather together each Sunday and the lessons will include a greater use of technology. A separate class to prepare for confirmation will be offered to 9th graders. Junior and Senior Youth Groups will continue to meet on Sunday afternoons.

Young Adults

Mr. Hubard distributed a written report that included the results of a survey the committee disseminated this summer in an effort to determine who considers themselves “Young Adults” at St. James’s and what they are seeking from the church. Initial results indicated that the following may be short or long-term goals:

- 1) Create a new look/name/substance (branding) of the group;
- 2) Expand the group’s demographic so that a larger age bracket can be divided into two groups, with Ms. Dieterle leading the 30-40 year olds and Mr. Riffie leading the 20-30 year olds;
- 3) Thoughtfully plan for spiritual formation and growth of the Young Adults groups.

Mr. Hubard thanked Mr. Lawson for his help in creating the survey, which had a good rate of return. He said that the next step in the process is to use the data gathered from the survey to help with decisions about how best to reach this demographic and establish lay leadership for it. The committee anticipates that, through better use of technology, young adults will “self-select” the events and activities in which they want to participate, once those are decided.

Mr. Hubard’s report also included two articles regarding attracting young adults to the church.

SERVICE AND FOUNDATION COMMISSIONS

Service and Foundation Commissions will report at the September Vestry meeting.

Nancy Warman, Director of Servant Ministries, submitted a written report, which included information regarding several service initiatives and a list of the Outreach committee’s distribution of funds for 2013.

Mr. Watts, Junior Warden, distributed a written Buildings and Grounds report, which particularly detailed the insurance settlement and costs associated with repair of the water damage resulting from the broken pipe in the sacristy earlier in the year.

LIAISONS

Episcopal Church Women

Ms. Prevatt reported that the lecture series sponsored by the ECW will resume on September 10, and the first speaker will be Ms. Elizabeth Whitmire, who has been serving as a long-term missionary in Haiti.

Children’s Center

Mrs. Whitaker distributed the Children’s Center’s recently revised By-laws and Articles of Incorporation. Mrs. Whitaker reported that the Children’s Center Board of Directors had determined that the By-laws and Articles of Incorporation needed to better reflect how the Center is currently administered.

Mrs. Ukrop made a motion to accept the revised documents as presented, which was seconded and unanimously approved by the Vestry.

Mr. Hollerith reported that the Children's Center had hired Debbie Lickey as their new Executive Director. The Center anticipates a slight drop in their 4-star rating during this period of reorganizing and transition.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hollerith commended the staff for all the work they had done during the summer to prepare for the fall programming.

OTHER

The Vestry was encouraged to review upcoming events, which are listed on the reverse of the Agenda. Mr. Hollerith particularly noted "Opening Sunday," which will be on September 8, and the annual Parish Picnic that afternoon at the St. Catherine's School's athletic fields in Goochland, as the usual location at Rock Bottom was unavailable because of construction.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Anita Lisk
Clerk

Approved:

Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Rector