

Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Minutes June 15, 2021

Vestry present:

David Robinson, Senior Warden
Gretta Boshara
David Candler
Melanie Fahey
Rand Key
Steven Killworth
Danna Kurtin
Mike Murphy
Posey Saenz
Libby Spoede
Susannah Webb
Kelly Williams
Lam Yu

Vestry absent:

The Rev. Neil Willard
Shannon Westin, Junior Warden
Jim Rosenbach

Clergy present:

The Rev. Elizabeth Parker
The Rev. David Wantland

Clergy absent:

The hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting started at 5:33 PM and ended at 6:37 PM.

1. **Opening Prayer.** Liz opened the meeting in prayer.
2. **Community Sharing.** David Robinson encouraged community sharing.
3. **Minutes.** The May 18 and special meeting June 8 minutes were approved with the following corrections: grammatical corrections for the May 18 minutes. Motion by Steve, second by Danna, and the vestry voted to approve the minutes.
4. **Council Reports.**
 - a. Finance Council. Posey reported the overall financial picture is good despite light contributions in May. Expenses continue to be aligned with expectations. The audit was completed and presented to the finance committee noting a clean report. The electricity bill (overcharge from the freeze) has not been resolved at this time and there are 3 options for resolution which are under discussion.
 - b. Worship Council. Steve highlighted there will be no summer schedule (the combined 10 am service) and will continue with 3 services (at 8am, 9am and 11am) to offer a variety of options for vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, especially children. The online service is now a live stream of the 11am service. More members of the altar party are continuing to return to the service.
 - c. Outreach Council. Kelly said the council will meet in July to plan for the fall. The diocese is encouraging more grass roots engagement with refugee resettlement and collaboration with other parishes for refugees and asylum seeking migrants. Liz said

Palmer is in formation process (preliminary) discussions with other faith groups. Palmer place apartments, if/when it resumes, will likely be only 2 apartments instead of 4.

- d. Evangelism Council. Lam said the council did not meet this month, but Sunday school will start on July 11th for the entire congregation at 12:30 via Zoom for a 6 week program.
- e. Communications Council. Susannah relayed there will be a refresh of branding and signage around campus. Many classes are on summer break and will resume in the fall. Dustin is reaching out for internship opportunities for the Media Ministry, especially on Sunday mornings for the live stream of the 11am service.
- f. Stewardship Council. Rand said a meeting will need to be held and include Roger and Dustin to help. He emphasized what was missed last year was the involvement of stewardship in the various groups during the fall to connect the talents and ministries of Palmer with stewardship. David Wantland said that Roger would reach out to set the date for Covenant Sunday and back date the programming plan for the stewardship season.
- g. Building and Grounds Council. Gretta reported that the rectory porches are being repaired in July. The playground recently passed inspection, but will have some repairs of cracks in the surface. The courtyard entry from the parking lot will get a refresh. The list of deferred repairs is being sent to the finance committee and will then be passed to the endowment committee.

5. Warden Reports.

- a. Senior Warden. David Robinson thanked those that were able to make the meeting in-person at the first vestry hybrid in-person/virtual meeting format. David R suggested, as is customary, to not have a July meeting. Motion made by David R, second by Gretta, and the vestry voted to resume regular vestry meetings in August.
- b. Junior Warden. David Robinson relayed Shannon's report that they are continuing to have successful in person meetings on campus and will continue to expand in person meeting options.

6. Task Force Reports.

- a. Membership Task Force. David Wantland presented for Neil. A formal report will be emailed to the vestry tomorrow for review prior to the next vestry meeting. The task force had been meeting since October 2020 to hear each other's stories about coming to Palmer, interview other churches about best practices, and interview other clergy about their successful membership campaigns. The report suggestions fall into the categories of *Invite*, *Welcome*, and *Connect*. David Wantland provided a high level overview of the report. The task force encouraged people to be able to speak authentically and extend personal invitations and accompany people to Palmer. They also noted a welcoming physical environment (parking, maintenance of the property) in addition to an online presence/website. Both important and we will request an investment in these items. Connecting newcomers to Palmer by personal connection from the rector, staff, and other members within the first 3 months was highlighted as an item of importance. David R encouraged the vestry to think about how the task force recommendations can be incorporated into the various council projects.

- a. Property Development Task Force. David R noted an email from Neil with an attachment of a sample infographic to communicate the information to the parish. David noted a disconnect between the vestry's goals of advancing the mission and JLL's focus on monetary benefits of development. Gretta noted that JLL's expertise and desire to help with finances didn't translate well across during the virtual meeting. David R and Neil continue to explore a mediator to engage the parish later this summer for discussions on property development. David Candler suggested engaging the church in Dallas to hear their experience with development.

7. Clergy Reports.

- a. The Associate Rector Rev. Liz Parker. Liz said Eucharistic visitors will resume. The Community of Hope has started meeting in person again.
- b. The Associate Rector Rev. David Wantland. This is David's last meeting and we wish him well.

8. Closing Prayer. David W closed the meeting in prayer.