

## Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Minutes October 18, 2022

### **Vestry present:**

The Rev. Neil Willard  
David Robinson, Senior Warden  
Bet Hunter  
David Candler  
Margie Dieter  
Melanie Fahey  
Abigail Follmar  
Pam Harvey  
Rand Key  
Jim Rosenbach  
Posey Saenz  
Libby Spoede  
Marie Wehrung  
Andy Williams

### **Vestry absent:**

Danna Kurtin, Junior Warden  
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### **Assisting Clergy present:**

The Rev. Ryan Hawthorne

### **Assisting Clergy absent:**

The Rev. Jack Karn

The hybrid in person and virtual meeting started at 5:36 pm and ended at 6:52 pm.

1. **Opening Prayer.** Neil opened the meeting in prayer.
2. **Community Sharing.** Neil encouraged community sharing.
3. **Dwelling in the Word.** Psalm 121 was used for the exercise led by Neil.
4. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes from September 20, 2022 were approved with no corrections. Motion by David R, second by Rand, and the vestry voted to approve the minutes.
5. **Vestry Councils.**
  - a. **Good News.** No updates.
  - b. **Worship.** Ryan stated that the ushers will be added to MSP for scheduling and all ushers will be trained on both Rite I and II services.
  - c. **Outreach.** Marie said the council has not met since the last vestry meeting. The next Serve Sunday will be in 2023 and there was discussion about having one in early February before Ash Wednesday. Pam added that the New Hope Housing is expecting a small group in December.
  - d. **Communications.** Melanie said the focus has been supporting stewardship.
  - e. **Building/Grounds.** David C that the repairs from the fire marshal are underway. One of the air handler motors went out and was replaced with a spare motor with Gerry's help. The motor will be repaired and kept on site for a future repair. The final set of fall festival events will be painting the first weekend in November. Neil added that a new fence is being installed at the rectory.
  - f. **Finance.** Pam said that the notes from the meeting were circulated and highlighted that the diocese reduced the annual assessment slightly and will waive the health insurance assessment which will both provide some savings. The 2023 budget is currently very

similar to the 2022 budget but will be reviewed. The pledges for October are improved and are almost at the budgeted amount.

- g. **Stewardship.** Margie said that as of today there are 62 pledges for \$508,330. There is encouragement to turn in pledges early to free up the stewardship committee to focus their work and efforts. There have been speakers the past few Sundays during the service which has been well received. There will be a picnic on Covenant Sunday and the parish will be encouraged to bring desserts to accompany the burgers, hot dogs and a vegetarian option.
6. **Warden Reports.**

  - a. **Senior Warden.** The Nominating Committee process will begin soon with the 3<sup>rd</sup> year class (David R, Rand, Libby, Andy and Marie) plus one member from each of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year vestry class. The representatives from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year class are Bet Hunter and Danna Kurtin, respectively. Motion by Melanie, second by Jim, and the vestry voted to approve the nominating committee. The notice of the Nominating Committee will be posted on October 30, November 6, and November 13. The Annual Meeting is set in the Code of Procedures as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in January, but may be changed at the discretion of the Vestry. Because of the marathon and Martin Luther King, Jr day, the annual meeting will be moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Motion by Margie, second by Andy, and the vestry voted to approve the Annual Meeting to January 22, 2023.
7. **Clergy Reports.**

  - a. **The Rev. Neil Willard.** Neil and Ryan attended the fundraiser event for Camp Allen for scholarships and programs. After the service this Sunday there will be a newcomer's lunch for ~20 people. Neil and David will be talking with Tucker on the Strategic Planning Process (Danna is out of town and unable to attend) this Friday. She will return on November 29 and 30 to work with the staff.
  - b. **The Rev. Ryan Hawthorne.** Ryan has been working with Stewardship and pastoral care. There are 2 upcoming weddings this fall and one in the spring. There have been several baptisms with a few more scheduled in addition to 3 funerals. The youth have been meeting on Sundays after church and discussing difficult conversations and learning about feelings and emotional wellness. The youth will also be meeting with older parishioners to interview and have lunch with them. The calendar through the end of May 2023 is in progress and will be posted by Christmas Eve.
8. **Old Business.** Marie said she could try to get a grant for a Crucial Conversations class in 2023, but noted her certification was through Rice and she is no longer affiliated with the institution. David R stated he would also discuss with Tucker to see if/how this can be incorporated into the Strategic Planning Process. Bet would like to reinstate the Vestry Person of the Day at the Welcome Tent on Sundays. Motion by Melanie, second by Bet, and the vestry voted to resume the Vestry Person of the Day.
9. **New Business.** Marie was able to see David Wantland on Sunday in Savannah who sends his regards to Palmer.
10. **Closing Prayer.** Ryan closed the meeting in prayer.