

**Palmer Vestry Meeting
September 17, 2019**

Vestry Present:

Jim Key
Burdett Keeland
Rita Justice
Al Hergenroeder
Victor Lamas
Shannon Westin
Kristie Van Arsdel
Linda Sylvan
Priscilla Plumb
Susannah Webb
Gretta Boshara
Steve Killworth
Barbara Hass
Jennifer Macia

Vestry Absent:

Randy Byrd

Clergy Present:

Neil Willard
Liz Parker
David Wantland

The meeting started at 5:30 and ended at 6:40.

There was an opening prayer and community sharing.

There were two amendments to the August 20 meeting minutes.

Financial Report – Jim Key. Jim Key said that in summary, income approximately equals expenses. Dick Sylvan and Dick Viebig of the Finance Committee presented a first draft of the 2020 budget. Specifics included: expenses to exceed income by \$4,100 through August 1. Projected 2019 deficit of \$24,104; cash balance as of August 31, 2019, \$221,411 of which \$168,581 are restricted funds, leaving us with a general fund balance of \$56,934; and if we have the projected deficit we will have \$32,000 in the general fund at the end of the year. They proposed budget revenue of \$2,217,800 with expenses of \$2,227,962 for projected deficit of \$10,162. Included in the revenues was a pledge revenue of \$1,710,000 compared to a 2019 expected total of \$1,572,000 They are recommending that all parishioners increase their pledge by 5% and they will ask for more from the endowment but Jim Key pointed out that the max that the endowment can give is limited by fiduciary restriction of no more than 5%.

Communications Council – Kristie Van Arsdel. There is a new, larger order of service that

seems to be well received by the parishioners. There were suggested website updates that are being worked on. The new take-home Palmer newsletter is being given out during the services and people are encouraged to take it home to keep up with events at Palmer. There's a consideration to start sending texts out for those people who prefer texting as communication. It was requested that the vestry serve dinner on October 2. There's one shift that starts at 5:15 and second shift it starts at 6 o'clock. There will be a Brazos bookstore event at the church on October 2. There was mention of there's only two male Stephen ministers and we need more.

Evangelism Council – Shannon Westin. The First Thursday Women's Night Out was held. There will be nine first Sunday receptions and they will be working with the hospitality guild to jointly run each of the meetings sponsored by one ministry. It costs approximately \$150 to serve one of the Sunday receptions. This will be put into the Palmer. There will be two Newcomers Dinners this year sponsored by the Daughters of the King. The mother's helping hands ministry is going to expand its ministry of two weeks of a meal chain to women having other major life events, not just the birth of a child. This will be led by Posey Saenz. Finally it was encouraged that we all wear nametags.

Outreach Council – Barbara Hass. Barbara received a letter back from Harris Health system about the 200 snack kids that were made. Liz Parker gave an update on the PAR Ministry, which has three priorities this year: 1) continue to cook, serve and eat with the former prisoners 2) microloans; and, 3) providing a PAR apartment much like the other Palmer apartments. These would serve as Tier 2 housing with Palmer paying the lease. Two persons will live in the apartment. They already have a \$15,000 donation. Liz also passed around stick up notes that say Steven ministries so that anybody, regardless of their Church affiliation, going through a crisis could be helped by Stephen ministers.

Stewardship Council – Linda Sylvan. The council has 15 members of diverse age. The Lay speakers for the year have been identified. They are working on redoing the stewardship brochure with Dustin. It is recommended that parishioners increase their pledge by 5%.

Worship Council – Victor Lamas. The Council met September 5. Acolyte training has been offered and 12 acolytes are in training. The minimum requirement of being is they be in fourth grade. Victor thanks Michael Massey, Dick Sylvan, and Roger Hutchison for working on the tabernacle.

Junior Warden – Burdett Keeland. Burdett gave a handout. We are under budget all around and over on just a couple of items. There will be a work project October 5 pressure washing, sanding and oiling the teak furniture in the courtyard as we get ready for the reconciliation sculpture dedication.

Senior Warden – Jim Key. There will be a request for new vestry members on November 1.

Rector's Report – Neil Willard. Neil pointed out that we're back to our regular schedule. We will have Great Wednesday dinner October 2 but no classes because of the Brazos Bookstore event. The statue in the courtyard will be dedicated October 13 to Stuart and Angie Kensinger. The Dean of the Coventry Cathedral will be here the weekend of Friday, October 18 through the

20th and he will be preaching that Sunday.

Associated Rectors – Liz Parker and David Wantland. Liz highlighted a suggestion by David Wantland to ask people what their gifts are. The initiative seems very successful.