

Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2021

Vestry present:

The Rev. Neil Willard
David Robinson, Senior Warden
Shannon Westin, Junior Warden
Gretta Boshara
Randy Byrd
Melanie Fahey
Rand Key
Steven Killworth
Danna Kurtin
Jim Rosenbach
Posey Saenz
Libby Spoede
Susannah Webb
Kelly Williams
Lam Yu

Vestry absent:

Mike Murphy

Assisting Clergy present:

The Rev. Elizabeth Parker
The Rev. David Wantland

Assisting Clergy absent:

The meeting started at 5:31 PM by Zoom and ended at 6:41 PM.

1. **Opening Prayer.** Liz opened the meeting in prayer.
2. **Community Sharing.** David Robinson encouraged community sharing.
3. **Minutes.** The February 24, 2021 minutes were approved with the following corrections: moving Neil to the Vestry and adding the word “assisting” before clergy in the attendance list. Motion by Steve, second by Danna, and the vestry voted to approve the minutes.
4. **Council Reports.**
 - a. Finance Council – Mike emailed the report prior to the meeting. Posey remarked the finances are strong due to prepayments of pledges and unpledged donations. The endowment board joined the finance committee for a meeting to align their entities and foster more communication and collaboration, particularly with the facility repair list.
 - b. Worship Council – Steve announced the council is looking at slowly starting a return to transition back to indoor worship. As far as acolytes, the youth and adult acolyte masters will reach out to their respective groups of acolytes to see what their comfort level is for slowly resuming participation during services. The proposed plan is to start with one acolyte and then very gradually increase the number of acolytes.
 - c. Outreach Council – Kelly reported that PAR is picking up again with drop off meals and has more information coming about microloans. The refugee offices are opening back

up and Linda Shelton is gathering more information about the resettlement ministry. There will be a reception for Yellowstone Academy teachers.

- d. Evangelism Council – Randy announced Go and Tell will be Saturday, April 17th from 9am to noon for Parish leadership, including vestry, new member task force, evangelism council, select staff and finance committee. Reel Theology had 30+ participants for its first event. Next month is Cool Hand Luke with Dustin facilitating the discussion.
- e. Communications Council – Susannah had a few requests for the vestry including suggestions for people to highlight in the I Am Palmer series, let her know if there are items that would benefit from push notifications on social media outlets, and any general feedback is appreciated. There is now a “meetings” link on the Palmer website landing page.
- f. Stewardship Council – Rand said the highlight from the campaign was the creative use of media and virtual means to reach out to the Palmer community to reach the goal. There were fewer units of pledges, but the overall amount was increased. Thank you notes and other messages of thanksgiving have gone out to Palmer members. There was discussion regarding the benefit of the shepherds reaching out to Palmers during the year and a suggestion was made for the vestry to send cards (perhaps commissioned by the Palmer artists) to Palmers during the Easter season so they don’t hear from the vestry only for stewardship.
- g. Buildings and Grounds Council – Gretta reported the insurance is being worked out for the heat pump repair which will happen soon. The annual inspection was good and there was one repair in a restroom which is now fixed. The landscaping will be refreshed for the spring to remove the damaged plants from the freeze.

5. Warden Reports.

- a. Senior Warden – David said he has been speaking with the clergy and office staff about the next steps toward more in person activities and asked Shannon to provide an update on COVID.
- b. Junior Warden – Shannon said she is watching the TMC COVID dashboard with the positivity rate hovering right around 5%. There is concern that the numbers may increase with spring break and the mask mandate being lifted, so we need to continue to monitor the metrics. Small groups, such as walking/running groups, may start back up in the near future with safety guidelines that will be provided to the leaders of these groups.

6. Task Force Reports.

- a. Membership Task Force – Neil reported the interviews are ongoing.
- b. Property Development Task Force – David Robinson said that Tara and Gretta have joined the task force. The task force will be co-chaired by Gretta and Dave Maxey from the finance committee. The current members are: Gretta Boshara, Dave Maxey, David Robinson, Greg Hambrick, Andy Schatte, Neil Willard, Tara McConathy, and Bob Schorr (Diocese). There is a final interview with the 2 brokerage firms. No decisions have been made, but next step is vote by the vestry to officially recognize the task force as an entity sanctioned by the vestry. Motion by Randy, second by Posey, and the vestry voted to approve the task force.

7. Presentation of Vestry Assignments.

- a. Finance: Posey

- b. Worship: Jim, Steve
- c. Outreach: Danna, Kelly
- d. Evangelism: Melanie, Lam, Randy
- e. Communications: Susannah
- f. Stewardship: Mike, Rand
- g. Buildings and Grounds: Gretta

8. Clergy Reports.

- a. The Rev. Neil Willard – Neil reported he continues to monitor TMC numbers and they are preparing to pivot as soon as the data dictates. He anticipates new guidelines from the Diocese this week.
- b. The Rev. Liz Parker – Liz gave her time to Neil and David.
- c. The Rev. David Wantland – David announced he will be leaving in the next 4-6 weeks which is bittersweet for everyone. Neil said he has been in contact with the Diocese and is asking to resume the curate program. Neil has interviews in the next few weeks. Neil will also ask for a grant for the curate program from the Diocese which is up to half of the salary for 2 years. The vestry thanked David for his service, attention to detail, and tender care to the parish.

9. Old Business. None.

10. New Business. None.

11. Closing Prayer. David Wantland closed the meeting in prayer.