

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
PALMER MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Members in attendance

Neil Willard, Rector
Abigail Butler
Courtney Daniell-Knapp, Sr. Warden
Ruth Davies
Ellee de Groot
Pam Harvey
Stuart Kensinger
Jim Lober, Clerk
Allison Marek
Jim Mercurio, Jr. Warden
Steve Vaughan
Kirk Waldron
George Webb
Marie Wehrung
Trent Williams

Members Absent

Will Denham

Additional Clergy Present

Rev. Alex Easley
Rev. Liz Parker

The monthly vestry meeting of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. The meeting commenced at 5:35 p.m.

1. Community, Welcome & Prayers—Rev. Liz Parker opened with prayer, after which attendees were invited to make known their prayers, concerns and thanksgivings.

2. Information—Standing Committees

(a) Finance Report—Jim Mercurio gave the financial update. The unrestricted cash balance at the end of 2016 has improved to \$225,000. Restricted funds are \$200,000.

(b) Endowment Update—presented by Courtney Daniell-Knapp. Courtney met with the Palmer Endowment Board on January 3, 2017, and presented several items of expense which cannot currently be undertaken under the current budget, but which are deemed necessary for the ongoing maintenance and growth of our church. These items include replacement of air conditioning chillers—approximately \$200,000; restoration of cash reserves--\$200,000; and a new Monument Sign on Main Street—approximately \$114,000. The Endowment Board committed to pay for the chillers, and to loan up to \$200,000 to Palmer to assist with the other items set out above. It is anticipated that a substantial trust gift will come to Palmer and the Endowment Board, a portion of which will be available for some of the items listed above. Specifics of the gift will be announced to the Parish in due course.

(c) Stewardship Update—Presented by Ellee de Groot and Trent Williams. The 2017 Stewardship Campaign is approximately \$160,000 short of the \$1.7M pledge goal. Ellee and Trent have worked extremely hard in pursuing the pledge goal for both the 2016 and 2017 stewardship campaigns. The vestry engaged in a lengthy discussion concerning Palmer’s gifts and how to communicate them. We discussed the need to increase Palmer’s pledging base by sharing those things that we are “on fire” about. Stuart Kensinger shared with us his passion for the work of Jerusalem Peacebuilders challenged us to identify what moves each of us to “Know and Share the Love of Christ”. Stuart committed to be available to the next vestry as we go about building our Church.

3. Decisions

(a). Approval of Vestry Minutes for December—Minutes from the December regular meeting were previously circulated. Trent Williams moved and Stuart Kensinger seconded the motion for approval of the regular minutes. Motion carried.

(b). Approval of Special Session Vote of the Vestry taken by Email on January 4—A motion was made by Allison Marek to approve Minutes from the Special Session Vote of the Vestry related to (1) publication of the nominating committee report for vestry and lay delegate positions, (2) publication of candidate names and biographical information, (3) Notice of Annual Meeting and (4) date of the annual meeting. Stuart Kensinger seconded; motion carried.

(c). Approval of two new members of the Endowment Board. Jim Lober moved for approval of Lynn Morstead and Bet Hunter as new members of the Endowment Board. Trent Williams seconded. Motion carried.

(d). Approval of the 2017 Budget—George Webb moved for approval of the proposed 2017 budget; Steve Vaughan seconded; motion carried.

(e). Approval of Executive Session Minutes from December regarding Clergy Housing Allowances. Jim Lober moved and Trent Williams seconded; motion carried.

(f). Approval of Loan from Endowment Board to Palmer— [to be clarified].

4. Jim Lober reported on the elections for vestry and lay delegates and sought some assistance which was graciously offered by George Webb, Pam Harvey, Ruth Davies, Stephen Vaughan and others.

5. Upcoming Events—Courtney noted a wealth of upcoming events including Meet the Candidates on January 22, the Annual Meeting on January 29, a February 5 presentation by Stephen Klineberg, of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University and the Rector's Reception on February 19.

6. Work on encouraging additional 2017 pledges—The vestry was asked to review lists of parishioners who have yet to make 2017 pledges and volunteer to make a personal call to request a pledge to our work at Palmer. The vestry was asked to make the calls and report status to Ellee and Trent.

7. Rector's Report—The Rector encouraged all to attend the Klineberg lecture on February 5; Serve Sunday is February 26; the Rector will attend the annual meeting of the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes ("CEEP") in Washington, DC, February 22-25.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm with prayer by the Rector.

/s/ James Lober
James M. Lober, Clerk