Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting Minutes March 3, 2018

**Vestry Present:**  **Absent:** Kristie Van Arsdel Ruth Davies Barbara Hass Al Hergenroeder Rita Justice Burdett Keeland Jim Key, Sr. Warden Victor Lamas Jennifer Macia Allison Marek Jim Mercurio Priscilla Plumb Linda Sylvan Steven Vaughan Susannah Webb

**Guests:**

Roger Hutchinson

**Clergy Present:** The Rev. Neil Willard, Rector

The Rev. Liz Parker, Associate

The Rev. David Wantland, Curate

The meeting was called to order at 9:00AM.

**Opening Prayer** – The Rev. Liz Parker opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Prayers and Thanksgiving –** Those in attendance shared their prayers and Thanksgivings, with special thanks for the safe birth of a granddaughter to The Rev. Liz Parker.

**Approval of Minutes –** The February minutes were approved with no corrections needed. Jim Mercurio moved the approval of the minutes and Jennifer Macia seconded.

**Financial Report –** Jim Mercurio reviewed the 2018 Budget and gave a report on cash flow for the first weeks of 2018 as well as an historical review of revenues and expenses going back to 2013. In 2017 expenses exceeded revenue by $69,000 but this year a balanced budget is planned. Linda Sylvan then followed with the latest pledge update of 276 pledges totaling $1,596,673 which is only $6,902 short of what is needed to balance the budget.

**Reports and Update –** Priscilla Plumb reported that the communications staff needs to know news of the various ministries and other activities in a timely manner in order to place information in The Palmer or print flyers.

**Evangelism –** The regular order of business was now suspended in order to begin a Vestry Retreat headed by Roger Hutchison, Director of Christian Formation. Roger stressed the need for Palmer to recommit to share the gospel in ways that we are uniquely positioned to do by virtue of our location, liturgy and music. A common thread is to help others find God through our worship and sense of community. Younger potential members instantly perceive anything that is not genuine or connected. Our information leaflets are being redesigned and whether newcomers connect with us by means of a traditional card or through media, a program for follow-up is planned. In addition, there will be monthly welcome receptions and several dinners a year for those who have joined. The Vestry and other leaders can be most helpful by being present at as many activities as possible. One of Roger’s paintings demonstrated the growth of Christian formation from baptism as a baby to a full fellowship within the arms of Christ.

**Junior Warden’s Report –** Burdett Keeland reported that the new air conditioner chillers have arrived and that installation will be scheduled in the coming week which will result in the closing of the south parking lot for a day.

**Senior Warden’s report** – Jim Key called for Vestry members to join one or more of the Councils for 2018 as each Council should have at least one Vestry member to serve as a liaison. The Councils with Vestry members as liaison are:

Stewardship – Linda Sylvan

Evangelism – Allison Marek

Communications – Priscilla Plumb

Worship – Victor Lamas

Finance – Jim Mercurio

Outreach – Steven Vaughan

**Clergy Reports –**

Neil Willard, Rector, reported that the Bishop of Jerusalem will be joining us and preaching at an upcoming Sunday and that the proper announcements of that visit will be made.

Liz Parker, Associate, reported that Tricia Taylor, a marriage therapist, will be here on April 21st and 22nd to speak on “love languages”. Liz also is excited about the work of Stephen Ministry here at Palmer.

David Wantland, Curate, said that the Palmer will join the march for gun safety and that there will be an Active Shooter Class here at Palmer on the 22nd of March at 6PM. He his also preparing our confirmands for the Bishop’s visit on April 8th.

**Unfinished Business –** The Finance Committee has asked us to approve Fritz Glover as a new member of the Committee. His appointment was approved by unanimous consent.

**New Business:**

Jim Key reported that Dr. Brady Knapp, Director of Music, has requested the sum of $20,000 or so for needed repair and renovation to the organ. Jim suggested a special appeal to the Parish to be announced after Easter. Al Hergenroeder moved approval of such a fund drive with a second from Ruth Davies and the motion carried. Jim will have more details at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Vaughan, Clerk