

Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
August 28th, 2018

Vestry Present:

Kristie Van Arsdel
Victor Lamas
Ruth Davies
Barbara Hass
Al Hergenroeder
Jim Key, Sr. Warden
Jim Mercurio
Priscilla Plumb
Linda Sylvan
Jennifer Macia
Steven Vaughan
Rita Justice

Absent:

Susannah Webb
Allison Marek
Burdette Keeland

Guests:

None

Clergy Present:

The Rev. Neil Willar, Rector
The Rev. Liz Parker, Associate
The Rev. David Wantland, Curate

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Opening Prayer – David Wantland opened the meeting with a prayer.

Prayers and Thanksgiving – Those in attendance expressed that they all had a nice summer.

Approval of Minutes – The June minutes were approved via email with minimal corrections.

Financial Report – Jim Mercurio reviewed the most recent church financials. Our cash balance is approximately 100K which is normal for this time of year. Prior year pledges (as budgeted) are essentially all in. As well, open plate and unpledged monies are a little behind relative to what was budgeted, but those numbers are a little hard to budget for. Expenses YTD are ~ 50K below budget. An additional 75K is expected in the coming months from the Endowment. Jim Mercurio reviewed the recent Finance Committee efforts to consolidate and streamline the designated funds. These efforts are proceeding as outline in the June Minutes. A motion was made by Linda Sylvan and seconded by Priscilla Plumb to split the Storm Relief Fund into two funds by moving 25K to the new Natural Disaster Fund and keeping the remaining balance of ~25K in the Storm Relief Fund. Some discussion ensued regarding insuring that some restrictions and safeguards will be put in place to use the funds in appropriate and intended manners. The motion passed unanimously

Reports and Update

Communication – Priscilla Plumb reported on various upcoming activities that the Communications Council has been overseeing. The publications calendar and social media stats were reviewed and reported. So far, efforts to improve communications at Palmer seem to be working, and we are encouraged by the ongoing input from our internal and external communities. As discussed at the June Vestry meeting, there isn't information afterwards to communicate how an event went to inform those not in attendance. In response to that, a video has been created and sent out via The Palmer showcasing all the wonderful activities that occurred at Palmer over the summer.

Evangelism – Barbara Hass reviewed discussions from the recent Evangelism Council on August 23rd. It was a busy summer at Palmer. Evangelism efforts included the Pentecost Picnic, the Pride Parade, VBS, Missionpalooza, Older Adult Events, Serve Sunday, Jerusalem Peacebuilders Camp, and many other activities. The start of the Fall season brings new efforts in church to help those children and

adults with various special needs and neurodiversity issues. As well, the Fall calendar is full of activities at church and around the community that give us a chance to share what is going on at Palmer.

Outreach – The Outreach Council met on July 26th. Liz Parker shared that the council hear from Lisa Madry and discussed trying to discern a new direction and impactful ministry that people at Palmer can take ownership of.

Stewardship – Linda Sylvan reported that Stewardship planning is ongoing. Total pledges are now up to 288. The goal for pledges is 315 and an approximately 10% increase in total money. Covenant Sunday will be October 28th. There is no plan for a band this year. Rather tables will be set up in the courtyard and upstairs in the Parish Hall. Linda requested volunteers to share testimonials during the announcements in the weeks leading up to Covenant Sunday. Several Gatherings will be held that will focus on Outreach, Pastoral Care, Formation, Music, and Architecture.

Worship – The Worship Council will have its first Fall meeting on September 11th.

Junior Warden's Report – Jim Key gave the report in Burdette's absence. The new phone system has been installed and finishing touches are being made. Final tweaks on the chillers and control system are being made. The AC system at the Rectory is still working, but it almost went out recently. The bid that was chosen is the middle of the three bids obtained and will be done by the company that dealt with the chillers. A motion was made by Steven Vaughan and seconded by Jim Mercurio to approve the expenditure of the remaining funds from the Chiller / HVAC Fund to move forward with replacing the AC units at the Rectory. The motion passed unanimously.

Senior Warden's report – Jim Key reported on the timing of the front entrance remodel. Paul Martin, who has helped design the project, will speak at the next Vestry meeting regarding the project. The remodel is being done in large part due to the lack of safety in the current entrance. We will plan on having the project be included in the 2019 budget as maintenance rather than approaching the Endowment for funding the project. Some additional discussion was had

regarding the 2019 budget and it is anticipated that the budget will be about 10 percent higher than if currently is.

Clergy Reports –

Neil Willard, Rector, reported that Jerusalem Peacebuilders went very well. As well, he had a recent trip to Alabama with several other local ministers to visit the Lynching Memorial. Each of the ministers will be interviewed by the Chronicle about the experience. As well, Father Willard visited recently with David Goldberg about some potential partnering opportunities with the church he is serving at in Pasadena.

Liz Parker, Associate, reminded us all to inform of any and all pastoral care opportunities at Palmer. As well, she relayed to the group that Palmer is now hosting two separate AlAnon groups during the week.

David Wantland, Curate, noted that summer at Palmer was busy and full of fun events. His experience with JPB was very impactful this year.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business: Barbara Hass presented an idea from the Evangelism Council for some new signage / banners along Main Street that would carry the message “God Thinks You’re Fabulous.” The Vestry gave general approval to pursue such signage and pay for it with funds from the Evangelism budget. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Vaughan, Clerk