

Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
September 18th, 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
Susannah Webb
Burdette Keeland

Guests:

None

Clergy Present:

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

Guests:

Paul Martin, AIA

Absent:

Allison Marek

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM.

Opening Prayer – Jim Key opened the meeting with a prayer.

Prayers and Thanksgiving – Burdette Keeland offered thanksgiving for the birth of his grandson. Neil offered prayers and thanksgiving for the Yom Kippur service he will be attending later in the evening.

Approval of Minutes – The August minutes were approved. Motion by Priscilla Plumb, seconded by Steven Vaughan. Susannah Webb abstained due to her absence from the August meeting.

Invited Guest Report

Paul Martin shared plans for the front entrance remodel of the Nave. Architectural renderings and drawings were shared that revealed plans to increase the accessibility via the front entrance while increasing safety and overall usefulness of the space. Paul has been in consultation with clergy, staff and other interested parties regarding the project and the final product will be very consistent with the overall look and esthetics of Palmer.

Financial Report – Jim Mercurio reviewed the most recent church financials. Open plate and unpledged monies are ~30K behind relative to what was budgeted, but those numbers are a little hard to budget for and much of this money comes in later in the year typically. Expenses YTD are ~ 50K below budget. An additional 75K from the Endowment has been received as well as the 30K from Archway Academy. Palmer Place leases are coming up for renewal and the church and Finance committee are working to get the best deal possible on these apartments. Jim Mercurio reminded the Vestry that when expenses can be paid appropriately from Designated Funds we should do this as money is there and available for use.

Reports and Update

Communication – Jennifer Macia reported on various upcoming activities that the Communications Council has been overseeing. The publications calendar was reviewed. 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.

Evangelism – Response to the new “Pray Serve Love” folder as well as the Great Wednesday Programming has been excellent.

Outreach – The Outreach Council hasn’t met recently. Abigail Folmar will likely be stepping down from the council and the council is looking for her replacement. Liz Parker gave a teaser about a future plan and opportunity from the Outreach Council. Neil reported on his visit with Father Lopez at San Pedro Church in Pasadena. They would definitely like to partner with Palmer Church in regards to continued assistance for Harvey victims in their parish. It was suggested that David Goldberg make a presentation to the Vestry regarding potential partnership opportunities with San Pedro Church.

Stewardship – Linda Sylvan reported that Stewardship planning is going well and will commence Sunday, September 23rd. Jim Key will give the initial testimonial and then there will be Gatherings at the Key’s house with another a few days later at the Wallace’s house. The goal for pledges is 315 and 1.8 million dollars in pledges.

Worship – The Worship Council met on September 11th. Victor Lamas shared that Upcoming worship activities include Evensong (Oct. 14th), the Axiom string quartet performance (Oct. 27th), Covenant Sunday (Oct. 28th), Serve Sunday (Dec. 2nd), Kirking of the Tartans (Dec. 7th) and acolyte and lector training in October.

Junior Warden’s Report – Burdette Keeland gave reported that the AC system at the Rectory will be replaced sometime in October. As well, several appliances at the Rectory may need to be replaced in the near future. Recent rains at Palmer have resulted in several roof leaks that are planned for repair. Burdette met with members of the bellringing group and was shows some potential issues that may need to be corrected for greater safety in the bell tower.

Senior Warden’s report – Jim Key reported that the planned budget for 2019 will be ~2.3 million dollars with 1.8 million dollars in pledges. The increase is largely due to the inclusion of the front steps renovation in the maintenance budget. Jim

Key and on the timing of the front entrance remodel. Neil and Jim also reported on a recent meeting with Bishop Doyle regarding future partnership opportunities and land use with the Hermann Park Conservancy and other neighbors. No firm details came from these meetings.

Clergy Reports –

Neil Willard, Rector, reported that he will be attending a Yom Kippur service this evening at Congregation Emanu El.

Liz Parker, Associate, informed the Vestry that Bill Robinson will be stepping down from his lead role with Community of Hope. Greta Bosharra will take over his role. Community of Hope and Eucharistic Visitors are seeking great coordination to allow increased visitations to shut-ins.

David Wantland, Curate, noted that the Young Adults have a council now and meet monthly. Various programs with Palmer Youth are going well.

Unfinished Business – Jim Key thanked the Vestry for their various insights and opinions as it helps him as he leads the Vestry.

New Business: None

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Vaughan, Clerk