

Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
November 13th, 2018

Vestry Present:

Victor Lamas
Burdette Keeland
Ruth Davies
Barbara Hass
Jim Key, Sr. Warden
Jim Mercurio
Linda Sylvan
Jennifer Macia
Steven Vaughan
Rita Justice
Susannah Webb

Absent:

Allison Marek
Kristie Van Arsdel
Priscilla Plumb
Al Hergenroeder

Guests:

The Rev. Pedro Lopez, St. Pedro's Pasadena
The Rev. David Goldberg, St. Pedro's Pasadena

Clergy Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

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

Prayers and Thanksgiving – Neil offered thanksgiving for the upcoming move to Houston of his in-laws. Barbara mentioned she recently moved closer to Sarah and the grandkids. Burdette Keeland offered thanksgiving for his daughter moving

closer to him as well as his recent engagement. Victor shared that Jeff will be giving his first sermon soon.

Approval of Minutes – The October minutes were approved. Motion by Linda Sylvan, seconded by Burdette Keeland.

Invited Guest Report

The Rev. Pedro Lopez and the Rev. David Goldberg met with the Vestry regarding the potential for some partnering and service opportunities with St. Pedro's Church in Pasadena. A brief history of the parish was shared. The demographics in the church have shifted to a more Spanish-speaking based population. The church has a variety of community outreach programs and needs partners / volunteers for ESL classes, health system navigation and the food bank. The Outreach Council will discuss this further and return to the Vestry for a report.

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 below budget. Our available cash balance is shrinking which is typical for this time of the year. For 2018, we still have ~ 345K in unpaid pledges which is similar to where we were at this point last year. The Finance Committee is continuing to work on further drafts of the 2019 budget.

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 – The Parish retreat was well attended and several new families came for the first time.

Outreach – The Outreach Council hasn't met recently. Kelly Williams will be leading the Outreach Council and replacing Abigail Folmar. Liz Parker related that Kathy

Troisi and Greg Hambrick are exploring the possibility of collaboration with Prison Entrepreneurship Program (PEP).

Stewardship – Linda Sylvan thanked the Vestry for its efforts on Covenant Sunday. We have about 60% of our goal (190 pledges and ~ 1.2 million in pledges so far). Further efforts will be made to reach out to people who have not yet pledged.

Worship – Victor Lamas shared that Upcoming worship activities include Serve Sunday (Dec. 2nd), Kirking of the Tartans (Dec. 7th), Advent and Carols on Dec 16th. Christmas Eve Services will be at 4 PM, 6:30 (carols), 7:00 PM, 9:30 (carols) and 10:00 PM.

Junior Warden's Report – Burdette Keeland reported that some roof repairs have been completed but due to wet weather, not all the leaks have been fixed. Projects at the Rectory are underway.

Senior Warden's report – Jim Key reported that Nominating Committee has been formed and will need to meet sometime in late November to choose Vestry and Lay Delegate Nominees. Clergy and staff reviews are underway.

Clergy Reports –

Neil Willard, Rector, reported the planned Christmas Eve schedule. He announced that the Farish Fund will donate 50K to Palmer next year for various educational efforts. The meeting with the representative from the Farish fund was good as she gave him several other Funds that might be interested in donating to Palmer. Our access to parking at the Hermann Plaza is gone. George Webb helped facilitate access to a lot at Rice.

Liz Parker, Associate, attended an Enneagram Conference recently and Bob Flick will do a workshop May 3rd-4th.

David Wantland, Curate, noted that the Young Adults have a council now and meet monthly. Tacos on the Patio is one of their ongoing activities. Davis will kick off a Bible Study for the youth in the spring on Wednesday nights.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business: None. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Vaughan, Clerk