

St. James' Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting (Hybrid)

April 25, 2023

**Present:** Susanne Rynkiewicz, Michael Brown, Barbara Burton, Judy Holmes, Diane Steckel, Amy Allyn, Margie Amberge and Nancy Corl.

**On ZOOM:** Laura Posecznick with a St. James' website walkthrough and Nicole Bova with February Financials

**Absent:** The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper, Marie Hughes, Bill Spalding

**6:03 PM: Call to Order**

**Prayer:** Susanne Rynkiewicz

**Devotional** - Psalm 138. Amy Allyn had the Vestry read the psalm several different ways and led a discussion on what phrases in the psalm resonated with us and why.

**Quick Action Items:**

**1. Approval of March minutes:** Vestry reviewed the minutes and noted a few minor corrections. Barbara Burton made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections; Amy Allyn seconded; Vestry approved.

**2. Choice of Psalm for April meeting:** (Barbara Burton) Psalm 34

**3. Housing Allowance 2023:** The Vestry reviewed the housing allowance for church-provided residence in 2023 for The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper.

Margie Amberge made a motion to accept the following Housing Allowance Resolution:

**St. James' Episcopal Church**

**Housing allowance for church-provided residence in 2023**

**The Rev. Dr. Rebecca B. Coerper**

**Whereas the Rev. Dr. Rebecca B. Coerper is employed as a minister of the Gospel by St. James' Episcopal Church in Skaneateles, New York, which although providing a residence for her, does not provide the full cost of maintaining and furnishing such a residence, the Vestry resolves that of the total compensation to be paid to the Rev. Dr. Rebecca B. Coerper during 2023 that \$36,000 be designated as housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the I.R. S. code 1986 as amended in 2002.**

**According to the Church Pension Group website information, the housing allowance is calculated as follows: If you live in church-provided housing, the housing allowance is the fair market rental value of the church-provided housing, furnished plus utilities." Utilities as defined in the CPG webinar on housing allowance include heat, light, water, phone, and internet.**

Nancy Corl seconded the motion and the Vestry approved.

**Check In Items: A pre-read report was sent out to the Vestry prior to the meeting which included: the Agenda, Warden's Report and Rector's Report. (sent 4/22/23)**

**1. Warden's Report:**

**A. Transition Update:**

i. A candidate offer has been sent for replacement Organist/Choirmaster to officially start 9/1/2023.

ii. The Rev. Carrie Schofield Broadbent will be finishing her work in the diocese the end of May. Canon Tom Ferguson will be covering her duties until a replacement is found. The Rev. Carrie Schofield Broadbent will be visiting St James' on Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Columbarium Update:** Design plans were shared with the Vestry. Doug Smith will present updates at the May Vestry meeting after the presentation to the Village Board.

**2. Rector's Report:** The Vestry reviewed the Rector's report. They noted that the Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper will be scheduling a meeting for Planned Giving with Vestry members (Nancy Corl and Diane

Steckel), Jeff Davis (St. James' Foundation) and John Gilly to develop an out line for making planned giving a part of what the Vestry encourages in year -round stewardship communications.

**3. Christ-like Community:** This is a time to discuss concerns or conflicts that may arise in the parish.

**4. Minute About Ministry:**

Saints in Training: Judy Holmes reports that the Youth Group/Teen Group survey has been sent out to the congregation. Moe Allyn will be creating a summer program for youth and teens. A story time will be offered during the May 7 brunch from 10:15 to 10:45.

**5. Website Walkthrough:** Laura Posecznick walked the Vestry through the new St James' website and showed them how user friendly it is. The Vestry was impressed with the amount of information that is available. Laura P. reported that there is already an increase in "clicks" on our site and that several families with young children have found St. James' through the website. Judy Holmes asked about ways to track website activity to determine if "clicks" are repeat visitors or new visitors.

The Vestry thanked Laura Posecznick, and Michael and Danielle Larkin, for their hard work in creating the new website and maintaining the constant flow of communion.

**6. March Financials:** Nicole Bova presented the March financials, the YTD budget and income analysis, 2 Year Balance Sheet and giving report. After discussion, Judy Holmes motioned to approve the finance reports; Susanne Rynkiewicz seconded; motion approved.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 7:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Quattrociocchi, Clerk