

St. James' Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting (Hybrid)
May 28, 2024

Present: Rev. Joe T. Mitchell Interim, Warden Bill Spalding, Warden Doug Smith, Marie Hughes, Diane Steckel, Beckie Hidy, and Carol Murphy.

On ZOOM: John Devins

Absent: Margie Amberge, Tara Covert-Lanning and Judy Holmes

6:00 PM: Call to Order

Opening Prayer: John Devins

Devotional: Carol Murphy led a devotion on the biblical concept of meekness, drawing insights from various passages and a Christian missionary's perspective. The discussion explored how meekness is often misunderstood for weakness.

A pre-read report was sent out to the Vestry, prior to the meeting, with supporting documents.

Quick Action Items:

1. April 28 Minutes: The Vestry reviewed the minutes and found a minor correction. Discussion followed. Marie Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Diane Steckel seconded; Vestry members approved.

Reports

1. Rector's Report:

A. Laura Posecznick Medical Leave: Father Joe informed the Vestry that Laura will be on medical leave until 6/10/24. Please contact Nicole Bova or Father Joe with any questions or needs.

B. Father Joe updated the Vestry on where he stands in the process of his future position.

Committee Reports:

1. Buildings & Grounds:

A. Saxon Electric Co. has been chosen for the lighting project.

B. Safety Check has been chosen to install the dock. Marie Hughes made a motion to approve Safety Check's quote to install the dock at a cost not to exceed \$3000.00; Warden Bill Spalding seconded; Vestry members approved.

C. Work Day: Several church members participated in power washing areas, cleaning the altar, addressing a bee problem and washing windows.

2. Stewardship: Wardens Bill Spalding and Doug Smith shared initial thoughts on the upcoming stewardship campaign, emphasizing the need for a collaborative, congregation-wide approach that highlights the parish's vision and financial needs.

3. Thrift Shop: The Vestry discussed potential improvements to the physical space, such as addressing safety issues with the stairs.

4. Rector Search Committee: We are receiving candidates through the Diocese until May 30th. We are receiving candidates and are proceeding through the discernment process to discover who God has called to lead us into the future.

5. Children and Youth: Mo Allyn will be offering summer activities for the children.

Monthly Featured Report:

1. St. James' Church Foundation: Warden Bill Spalding presented a review of the history of the Foundation and its present status.

Old Business:

1. Columbarium (no action)

2. AC: Marie Hughes volunteered to form a committee to further explore the feasibility of installing air conditioning and fundraising options.

3. Inventory of equipment: (on-going)

4. Rectory Deck: Motion has been made to start installation.

5. Foundation New Members: Warden Doug Smith is leading the recruiting effort.

6. Delegates to Convention: Laura Abbott, Marie Hughes, Tara Covert Lanning and Warden Doug Smith will be attending the Convention. Alternate delegates are: Becky Hidy, Warden Bill Spalding and Nancy Graham. Diane

Steckel made a motion to accept Laura Abbott, Marie Hughes, Tara Covert Lanning and Warden Doug Smith as delegates to the Convention and accept Becky Hidy, Warden Bill Spalding and Nancy Graham as alternates. Carol Murphy seconded; Vestry approved.

7. Nave East Side Projector: Issue resolved itself.

8. Children's Coordinator: Father Joe and staff are working on updating job description.

New Business:

1. Rectory Renovations: Emails from Father Joe and Susanne Rynkiewicz listed areas of need. The Vestry will review the and form a plan. The Vestry will also need to create a "Welcome Binder" for the next rector.

2. Rectory AC: Marie Hughes made a motion to approve Father Joe procuring 2 window AC units the second floor of the rectory; Diane Steckel seconded; Vestry approved.

Finance Review:

A. April Financials: Warden Bill Spalding presented the April financial reports. The Vestry reviewed financial statements and discussed areas of concern. Diane Steckel made a motion to approve the reports; Carol Murphy seconded; Vestry approved.

2023-2024 RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE PRAYER

Holy one, Creator of all, send your Spirit to watch over and guide St. James' its Vestry and Rector Search Committee as they work through this transition seeking a new rector.

In unity help the Rector Search Committee to listen and respond with wisdom, and gratitude in all conversations, every step of the way.

We pray for continued patience for this Committee and the St. James' Parish and commit to observe Your (God's) timing for this process.

We further pray that you give the Search Committee the spiritual strength to seek Christ amid the many distractions, challenges, and hardships locally and in the world that add weight to the decisions of the day.

Please also lift up their families and provide extra care for them during this busy time.

Finally, Lord, we pray for our next Rector and their loved ones, that You (God) would give them a profound love for St. James' and the inspiration & strength to leave their current position.

All this we pray in your beloved name, Amen

The meeting ended at 8:20 PM.

Next Meeting: 6/25/24 at 6PM

Respectfully submitted,
Bethany Quattrociocchi, Clerk