

St. John's Episcopal Church  
610 Young Street  
Melbourne FL 32935  
Vestry Minutes  
January 17, 2019

**Present:** Steve Bradley, Bill Chernault, Linda Fletcher, Ben Kendall, Hal Martin, Julie Miller, Kathy Oas, Lee Steininger, Eric Turner, Katie Wilson

**Absent:** Linda Miller

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m., by Father Eric with prayers and remembrances for family, friends, and members and loved ones of the Vestry and the congregation.

**Formation:** "Canoeing the Mountains" Part 2: For true and lasting change, the culture must undergo change. This is difficult and often met with great resistance. Clinging to existing culture will derail change. Therefore, a strategy for change must work within the existing culture. Investing in change requires clarification of values and being consistent with living them. This effort takes time.

The Vestry is to read Part 3 for the February meeting.

**Minutes from December 20, 2018 Vestry meeting:** Motion made, seconded, unanimously passed to accept the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Bradley reported financials for the month ending December 31, 2018. Financials contained Summary Comments, the December 2018 balance sheet, December 2018 Financial Summary and December 2018 Cash Flow, 2018 Restricted Funds Summary, and 2018 Outreach Contributions.

Revenues for the month were \$22,794 against a budget of \$22,400 – slightly higher than budget by \$394. Expenses for the month (\$20,752) were less than budget by \$1,046. The month ended with a surplus \$2,042 (revenues to expenses) surpassing the budget expectation of a surplus of \$602 for the period. The year to date deficit is \$3,602. Events contributing to this state of the financials include lower than budgeted facilities expenses due to a quarterly Fire/Liability premium payment not needed due to new coverage. Also, while about 30% of pledges fell short, new member pledges and increased contributions from current parishioners increased revenues above expected.

The restricted funds account ended the month with a balance of \$23,674 of which \$22,108 is committed. This leaves a \$1,566 surplus of available funds in this account. Steve requested the Vestry to allow \$3,620 be moved out of the Reserve account of \$8,441 and put into the Operating Fund to cover the year end deficit. A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

A Restricted Fund account for "insurance deductible" has a balance of \$4,000. The Treasurer proposed eliminating this category and moving the funds to the Reserve as we have reduced the deductible with our new insurance by \$5,000. A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

2018 Outreach to date was \$9,950.45 - \$1,673 to Clergy Discretionary Fund, and \$700 to Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build, \$520.45 to God's Pantry, \$942 to Nana's House,

\$1,165 to Solar Light for Africa (SLA), \$436 to Santiago Families, and \$786 for the Children's Hunger Project, and \$1,424 to Family Promise of Brevard, \$439 to Brevard Rescue Mission \$918 to Steven & Mary Dass Mission, \$627 to Daily Bread, and \$320 to Fr. Loren & Linda Fox.

The 2019 budget was presented. Latest updates were the new Fire/Liability insurance deductible of \$5,000 and a projected \$500/month rent to be collected on St. James House.

A motion was made, seconded, and the Vestry unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit, and 2019 budget.

**Stewardship Update:** The pledge count stands at 57 for a total amount of \$167,955. Givers of Record amount is \$24,191. Total: \$192,146 for 2019. A few pledge forms remain out.

**Housing Allowance Resolution:** The Vestry reviewed and discussed. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously.

The following resolution was duly adopted by the Vestry of St. John's church at a regularly scheduled meeting held on January 17, 2019, a quorum being present:

Whereas the Reverend Eric Turner is compensated by St. John's exclusively for the services of a minister of the gospel, and

Whereas, St. John's Church does not provide Fr. Turner with a rectory, therefore, it is hereby

**Resolved**, that the total compensation paid to Fr. Turner for calendar year 2019 shall be a base pay of \$84,310.08 of which effective January 1st, \$42,000 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and further

**Resolved**, that the designation of \$42,000 as a housing allowance shall apply to the remainder of calendar year and all future years unless otherwise provided.

**Sr. Warden's Report:** None.

**Jr. Warden's Report:** Kathy Oas reported repairs on malfunctioning toilet in women's restroom appear to have resolved the issue of abnormally high water bill fluctuations. A malfunctioning door from the kitchen to the outside was reported and has been fixed, spraying to eliminate ants in the kitchen was completed.

A hole in the Memorial Garden wall was reported and is being evaluated for repair. A neighboring landowner reported problems with trees in the northwest corner of the property impinging on his property. These trees will be addressed concurrent to the sale of the properties on which they grow.

Finally, Kathy gave a brief overview of her report for the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting.

**Rector's Report:**

Fr. Eric reported the holiday services went well and he enjoyed a restful vacation during which Fr. Terry Highland celebrated and preached.

Based on an informal count, the advertising piece sent to neighboring households generated 10-12 new participants in the Christmas services. The advertising will be repeated for the upcoming Lent/Easter season.

Fr. Terry Highland will lead the Lenten series following weekly Wednesday Soup Suppers beginning in March. His subject will be "Prayer".

**Insurance update:** Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) has been set up for premium payments beginning in 2019.

**Leasing St. James House:** Meetings were held with an interested potential tenant and contact was made the City Planning Committee regarding zoning. This effort is on hold awaiting response from the City.

**Sale of Property Update:** The Diocesan default response to the general inquiry regarding selling the property is to not do it. A detailed report will be prepared describing the footprint of the properties being considered for sale relative to the rest of the campus, how the properties are not actively in use today and have no discernible future use, a clear plan of how funds for the sale would be used, and how the sale could potentially go to affordable housing, possibly managed by Family Promise of Brevard. The cash sale on the table will likely be visited and acted upon in 2019 by the newly seated Vestry.

**Long Range Property Plan:** An updated Long Range Property Plan was distributed by Lee Steininger. New additions are improved panel/dividers for Family Promise hosting and replacement of the Parish Hall roof.

**Nominating Committee:** The committee continues to identify and speak to potential candidates. The only name on the roster is Kathy Hoffman. At the Vestry meeting, Anneke Bertsch offered herself as a candidate and it was suggested Katie Wilson's name be added.

**Annual Parish Meeting:** A draft agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 9 a.m. was distributed.

**Other Old Business:** Bill Chernault mentioned that at the last funeral service held at St. John's, a lack of communication regarding flowers and reception food resulted in some confusion. The Vestry discussed ways to possibly mitigate in the future.

**Other New Business:** Teresa Chernault will chair an ad hoc committee to generate ideas and plans for the corner of the Memorial Garden.

Jackie Bond and Christine Bamberger will be handling service bulletin preparation and oversee Thursday printing activities.

Terry Highland, a retired Episcopal priest, has joined St. John's. He has applied to the Diocese to be licensed in the Diocese and a more formal role in the life of St. John's is being discussed.

Following prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Upcoming meetings for 2019: February 21, March 21, April 18 (a volunteer to take minutes will be need on this date), May 16. June 20, no meeting in July, August 15, September 19, October 17 (FPOB hosting, likely location change), November 21, December 19, and January 16, 2020.