

St. John's Episcopal Church
610 Young Street
Melbourne FL 32935
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Father Eric. Opening prayer.

Introduction of Vestry Candidates: The 5 Vestry candidates, Anneke Bertsch, Teresa Chernault, Kathy Hoffman, Hope Johnson, and Joe Laughlin were introduced. There were no nominations from the floor so the slate of candidates was finalized. Three candidates for 3-year terms are to be elected.

The first round of ballots were distributed, instructions given, voting held, and the completed ballots collected and counted.

Three candidates were elected by a majority of valid ballots by the second round. The elected Vestry members are Teresa Chernault, Hope Johnson, and Joe McLaughlin.

Jr. Warden's Report: Kathy Oas prepared a detailed Jr. Warden's report and it is available for review.

She reviewed major projects completed in 2018: installed new red carpet in the sanctuary; replaced the air conditioner servicing the office, Memorial Garden pavers were pressure washed and resealed; 2 large lightening-damaged trees in the vicinity of the Memorial Garden were removed. She thanked all those who volunteered to assist in these activities, including Ray McClendon, Lee Steininger, Bob and Dennis Stitzel, Bill and Teresa Chernault, Richard Huffman, Laure Bennett, and Eric Turner.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Steve Bradley, reported financials for the year ending December 31, 2018.

Revenues for the year 2018, \$209,107, were lower than budget by \$3,576 below budget. Expenses for 2018, \$212,727, were \$2,903 lower than budget. The fiscal year ended with a deficit of \$3,620.

The restricted funds account, after normal deposit and expense activity, ended the year with a balance of \$23,674. The prior year deficit remains at \$11,705, and the Restricted Reserve was \$8,441. A \$4,000 reserve account for insurance deductibles was eliminated as new fire and liability insurance has substantially lower deductibles and this amount was added to the Restricted Reserve account. The 2018 budget deficit (\$3,620) will be drawn leaving a Restricted Reserve of \$8,821 as we enter 2019. 2018 Outreach was \$9,950.

The 2019 budget is balanced and includes \$215,000 revenues (\$6,000 more than 2018 actual revenues), \$215,000 expenses (\$2,000 more than 2018 actual expenses) with no deficit or reserve planned. Budgeted revenue increases come from new pledges, anticipated rental income from St. James House and miscellaneous income, budgeted expense increases are primarily the increase in Diocesan Pledge requirements from 10% to 12%.

The 2019 Stewardship Drive resulted in 57 Pledges for a total of \$167,955, the average pledge is \$2,946 with 40% of the pledges less than \$1,500 per month.

Steve extended special thanks to Anneke Bertsch, assistant treasurer, Carol Taylor, bookkeeper, and the Sunday counters: Ginny Bradley, Ben Kendall, and Katie Wilson.

Report from Diocesan Convention: Ben Kendall presented his thoughts on the Diocesan Convention held Saturday Feb 2, preceded by the Diocesan Revival with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry in Orlando. The theme for the convention, and the year, is Keep Saying 'Yes' to Jesus. Bishop Brewer spoke on change that Episcopalian churches face in 2019. Elections were held, elected positions filled, and testimonies given. Ben described the events as spirit-filled, uplifting, and informative.

Family Promise Hosting: Lee Steininger presented results from the 2018 St. John's hosting activities with Family Promise of Brevard. Fifteen families comprising 24 adults and 40 children were hosted. Of the fifteen families, 12 have achieved housing. The average length of time a family is in the program is 38 days.

The 2019 hosting schedule is published. The first hosting begins today - Sunday, February 11, 2019. We welcome any and all new volunteers.

Daily Bread: Ian Johnson presented.

Rector Report: Fr. Eric thanked parishioners St. John's staff and volunteers for their productive work in 2018. Due to time running out, meeting was recessed to re-convene the following Sunday (Feb. 10, 2019) at 9 a.m.

Property Update: Fr. Eric reviewed the activities around St. John's property from past to current. Key points: (1) the park, having emotional value is not under consideration for sale; (2) Active efforts to rent St. James House are underway. The 2018 budget includes 8 months of rental income from James House; (3) The Vestry is actively pursuing sale of the property northwest of the church building. Two offers, \$125,000 and \$150,000 have been made. A detailed proposal to the Diocese is being finalized outlining the rationale for selling the property and how income from the sale may be used – replace flooring in the Parish Hall, Parish Hall and office roof replacement, electrical upgrades, but not for paying monthly operating bills. Funds would also be used to secure a professional consultant to identify the steps to grow and achieve a sustainable future.

Future Plans: Fr. Eric described steps the Vestry has taken over the last 12 months, educating on the current state of American churches, the challenges of a fast-paced changing culture, and what must be embraced to become and remain relevant now and in the future. The Vestry is reading and discussing the book, Canoeing The Mountains, by Tod Bolsinger, at the recommendation of Bishop Brewer and Canon Nunez.

We are faced with a landscape much different than that for which church leaders trained to navigate and most members understand. We must no longer look to existing members to describe what they need, but look to those not currently attending church for answers. The tools needed to navigate change are still not fully defined but we know it does not simply include doing more of what 'I like'. We are trying to answer the questions, "What type of leadership is needed and what does the model of leadership look like for an undertaking into unknown but undeniable change?"

We know we must re-tool to give ourselves and others the experience of God.

The Annual Parish meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:50 a.m.