

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE VESTRY
PALMER MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Tuesday, January 14, 2016

Members in attendance

Neil Willard, Rector
Carolyn Baker
Abigail Butler
Courtney Daniell-Knapp, Jr. Warden
Tim Driggers, Sr. Warden
Ellee de Groot
Margie French
Pam Harvey
Kathy Herrin
Stuart Kensinger
Jim Lober, Clerk
Kirk Waldron
Connie Wallace
George Webb
Marie Wehrung
Trent Williams

Members unable to attend

None

Clergy and staff in attendance

Dub Brooks
Linda Shelton
Roger Hutchison

Persons invited to attend

Dick Viebig
Dave Maxey
Bill Kersten
Jim Mercurio
Ann Pittman

The monthly meeting of the Vestry of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2016, at the Church. The meeting commenced at 5:30 p.m.

1. Time of Sharing and Opening Prayer

There was a time of sharing, after which Linda Shelton led in opening prayer.

2. Review of 2015 Financial Statements & Review of Proposed 2016 Budget

The Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dick Viebig and several members of the committee attended to review the 2015 Financial Statements and the Proposed 2016 Budget.

Dick Viebig noted that 2015 ended with a deficit of \$70,425.96 and there is sufficient reserve to cover the deficit. Although expenses for the year were under budget, revenues were under budget as well. It was noted that 2015 attendance was down from 2014.

The Finance Committee proposed 2016 budget revenue of \$1,842,088 and an expense budget of \$1,978,883, resulting in a deficit budget of \$136,795. The Finance Committee and the Stewardship Committee expect that this deficit will be substantially covered by pledges to be made in the latter half of January and first half of February 2016. If the deficit is not reduced, the Finance Committee will take necessary steps for the reduction of expenses so that a balanced budget will be obtained for 2016. Trent Williams moved for approval of the 2016 Proposed Budget. Margie French seconded. Motion carried.

3. Approval of December minutes

Marie Wehrung moved for approval of the December minutes. Trent Williams seconded. Motion carried.

4. Distribution of Way Station Funds

After wind-up of the Palmer Way Station, there will be funds remaining. It was suggested that remaining funds be donated as follows in 2016: \$25,000 to the Salvation Army, designated for Sally's House; \$25,000 to the Beacon; \$50,000 to the Star of Hope. If funds are available, \$25,000 will be donated to the Star of Hope in 2017. Pam Harvey moved for approval of the foregoing proposed donations. Connie Wallace seconded. Motion carried.

5. Gun Carry Law and Signs

It was reported by the Rector that the Diocese has finalized its policy regarding firearms on the Church premises. There were some questions regarding the diocesan policy, on which clarification will be sought. The Vestry and Rector felt that the signage should be similar in style to the others which are posted on Palmer property and that the requisite signs should be ordered.

6. Other Business

The Rector announced that the Unity in Mission Task Force had completed its work and made an extensive and comprehensive review of relevant materials on the issues involved with same-gender unions, had conducted open meetings where Parishioners were able to express their views and concluded with a recommendation that "... [a]fter spending six months in discernment together, the task force unanimously recommends to the Rector and Vestry that Palmer embrace the celebration of same-gender marriages." The Task Force recommended that the church work to strengthen all marriages and that "... it should be left to the conscience of individual clergy and lay ministers whether to officiate at or serve in a same-gender wedding."

Rev. Willard noted that the Bishop Doyle's guidance on the Unity in Mission discernment process did not require a vote of the Vestry or the Parish. The Vestry, on motion by Jim Lober, seconded by Trent Williams, voted to endorse and adopt the recommendations of the Unity in Mission Task Force, which motion carried.

7. Rector's Remarks and Dismissal

The Rector thanked the Sr. Warden, and the outgoing fourth year vestry class for their work on behalf of Palmer.

Thanks be to God.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ James M. Lober
James M. Lober, Clerk