

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
PALMER MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Tuesday, October 18, 2016

Members in attendance

Neil Willard, Rector  
Jim Mercurio, Jr. Warden  
Abigail Butler  
Courtney Daniell-Knapp, Sr. Warden  
Ellee de Groot  
Will Denham  
Pam Harvey  
Jim Lober, Clerk  
Allison Marek  
Steve Vaughan  
Kirk Waldron  
George Webb  
Marie Wehrung  
Trent Williams

Members Absent

Ruth Davies  
Stuart Kensinger

Clergy/Staff Present:

Rev. Alex Easley  
Rev. Linda Shelton  
Rev. Liz Parker  
Roger Hutchison

The monthly Vestry meeting of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church was held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016. The meeting commenced at 5:30 p.m.

1. Community, Welcome & Prayers

Trent Williams opened with prayer, after which attendees were invited to make known their prayers, concerns and thanksgivings.

2. Hospitality

Roger Hutchison indicated that the St. Andrews Guild no longer has the capability to prepare Great Wednesday dinners as in the past. Plans have been made for alternative arrangements going forward. Starting next week the Great Wednesday dinners will commence at 6:00 pm, which will allow our young choir members to eat with their parents before youth choir practice begins.

3. Information—Standing Committees

(a). Finance Committee—update presented by Jim Mercurio. Jim noted that revenues are on track but that expenses are approximately \$89,000 over budget. This is mainly due to a variety of building expenses, including electricity, roof repairs, air conditioning maintenance and security. Jim noted the decline in most 2016 end of quarter balances when compared to historical data. We continued to discuss the need for a larger pledging base.

(b). Stewardship Committee

Update presented by Ellee de Groot and Trent Williams. A review of 2016 pledge balances was performed. The average pledge for 2016 was \$5277; the median pledge was \$3120. Twenty-six (26) of the 313 pledges had 0% paid; 77 pledges had 50% or less paid. Efforts will be made to reach out to these folks to close this gap. All agreed it is critical for our church to grow our membership. Trent and Ellee, our stewardship chairs, are moving forward with the 2017 Stewardship Campaign as address in the September Vestry Minutes. Covenant Sunday is scheduled for October 30.

(c). St. Joseph's Guild—presented by Kirk Waldron

Kirk discussed the need for air conditioning repair/replacement and noted that it is important to have cash on hand to cover these costs when the inevitable failure of the units occurs.

3. Information—Other Committees

2017 Vestry Elections – Jim Mercurio stated that the nominating committee will begin its work soon. The nominating committee dates will be determined soon. The committee will be made up of the 5 members whose term is ending, and one member from each of the other two classes.

4. Decisions

(a). Approval of Vestry Minutes for September

Minutes from the September 20, 2016 Regular meeting were previously circulated. Trent Williams moved and Allison Marek seconded the motion for approval of the regular minutes. Motion carried.

(b). Motion to approve new Endowment Board Member

Ellee de Groot made a motion for approval of the Pam Lovett as a new Endowment Board member. George Webb seconded. Motion carried.

5. Discussion—Currency of Relationship: Building up our internal networks (Eric Law Follow-up)

a. Covenant Sunday—October 30

Courtney noted that many of the vestry are working on this event. There will be a hamburger/hotdog cookout provided to the whole parish. The Beetles (a band) will provide music on the St. Bede's lawn and it promises to be a fun event for all.

b. Vestry Leaders in Relationship Ministry—Vestry to send personal notes to parishioners inviting them to Covenant Sunday.

6. Rector's Comments—

Neil Willard expressed excitement about the forthcoming Covenant Sunday activities. Neil also announced that on November 13, at 4:00 pm there will be a special showing in the Nave of Generation Found, a documentary film, a large part of which was filmed at Palmer, profiling the work of Archway Academy, one of two recovery high schools in the State of Texas.

7. Executive Session—

The vestry went into executive session to discuss issues related to a pending trust gift to Palmer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

/s/ James Lober  
James M. Lober, Clerk