

St. James Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2018
5:30 pm

Participants: Fr. De Freeman, Sr. Warden Bob Keyser, Jr. Warden Bruce Stone, Drew Downey, Effie Thompson, Jim Daniell, Sallie Smith, Callie Grissett, Mary Hopkins Chamblin, George Huckabay, Terry Moore, Dylan Wells, Travis Youngblood, Bill Goetter, Treasurer Pel Henry, Parish Administrator Meghan Fancher,

Mutual Ministry Review

Guest: Rev. David Johnson

The Vestry convened at 5:30pm for a review of the Mutual Ministry Survey that was administered online by Retired Canon, the Reverend David Johnson. De opened the session in prayer and Rev. David began by passing out handouts of a summary of the Mutual Ministry Review (MMR). Notes and handouts are at the end of the December Vestry packet.

Bob opened the business portion of the December Vestry meeting in prayer at 6:50 pm.

Opening Prayer & Recitation of the mission statement

Those present recited the St. James mission statement: "We are a community anchored in Christ, seeking God, sharing His love and serving others."

Effie Thompson asked to speak to the vestry before the business of the meeting began. She resigned from the Vestry effective immediately. She has prayed about it, been in counsel with De, and feels it is the best decision for she and her family. Everyone on the vestry completely understood and praised her for realizing that she was spread too thin. Everyone wishes her well.

Financial Update & Vote to Approve—Pel Henry

Vote to approve financials from November/YTD

The total income was \$108,093 for the month of November versus a budget of \$117,100. There was no vestry meeting in November. We have slipped backwards in our income again in November but with December approaching, we feel we should be fine. Something to note: We are below close to the amount that was given to Hurricane Relief in regards to contributions. Parishioners gave approximately \$40,000 to Hurricane Michael Relief in October and November. We are off budget in Plate contributions also; hurricane relief may be one of the reasons. Operating expenses for November were \$101,943, below budget by \$7,616. We are currently \$130,000 below budget in expenses for 2018.

Pel then recapped where we ended November with pledge income. As of November pledge income is up: \$723,505 vs. a budget of \$686,565 and there is still \$150,000 that we have not received.

Pel then gave a pledge status for 2019. Pledges turned in by Commitment Sunday (12/2/2018) numbered 127 for a total amount of \$542,000. By December 10, we had received 158 total pledges equaling \$657,642. The group did voice their concern over the low number of pledges. Attendance has been off this fall, and the stewardship campaign was late getting started this year. There was some discussion about how to increase pledges by moving toward a year round stewardship campaign. This idea has been discussed in the past, and the hope is that it will come to fruition in 2019. The X factor when it comes to income is the unknown contributions including the Sunday plate.

Bruce Stone made a motion to approve the financial report, Bill Goetter seconded and all approved.

2019 Budget – Pel Henry

Authorize January including pool for raises until new vestry can ratify

Pel presented the 2019 Preliminary Budget for the Vestry to review. The budget is very similar to 2018 except for the addition of a third priest in the spring of 2019. Pel highlighted a few areas within the budget. The St. James School is self-sustaining at this time and therefore no expenses are budgeted by the church for the school. Terry Moore asked how the budget numbers are acquired, and it was explained that Jim Ketchum sits down with staff and ministry leaders to discuss their needs for the upcoming year in regards to finances. Further discussion took place regarding the school and its potential growth and increase in expenses. It was noted that Outreach decreased by \$10,000. De explained that money had to be taken from different areas of the budget in order to create a salary for a third priest. The budget is written in stone and is an ever-changing faith budget. Bob Keyser continued by reinforcing the fact that 2019 pledges are short in number and dollar amount as are 2018 contributions. At this time Jim must rely on historical data. Bill Goetter reminded the Vestry that the money always comes in but that moving forward we need an organized and ongoing stewardship program. It was decided that the Vestry needs to get out and educate the parish on the needs of a third clergy member.

Conversation continued about the slow response to stewardship this year. It has already been scheduled for Bob Keyser to address the congregation this upcoming Sunday at all three services. De has pledged to start earlier in 2019, pledge cards will go out in September/October. Callie mentioned with a new year and new vestry members, a fresh focus can be placed on stewardship.

The conversation ended with a vote to approve the proposed preliminary 2019 budget from the Finance Committee to allow the movement of funds in January 2019. New goals will be set in 2019 and numbers will be adjusted as necessary. Bill

Goetter made a motion to approve the preliminary 2019 budget, Travis Youngblood seconded, and all approved. Terry Moore would like to know more about the hit that Outreach has taken.

Discussion & Decision—De Freeman & Bob Keyser

Clergy Housing Resolutions

De explained that these resolutions must be approved every year to reinstate the appointment of a specific amount of funds from clergy salaries be set aside for housing. The official housing agreements are signed and located in the December vestry packet.

Jim Daniell made a motion to approve the Housing Agreement for De Freeman. Sallie Smith seconded the motion and all approved.

Jim Daniell made a motion to approve the Housing Agreement for Mary Jayne Ledgerwood. Sallie Smith seconded the motion and all approved.

Application for Postulancy Kenneth White-Spunner

De reminded everyone that Kenneth's postulancy began in 2018. It was decided that he be kept in the process, therefore the vestry needs to reinstate the postulancy.

Bruce Stone made a motion to approve the Application for Postulancy for Kenneth White-Spunner. Terry Moore seconded the motion and all approved.

Vestry Nominees for Approval

The vestry nominees that will be voted on during the January 13th Parish meeting include, Kris Bradley, Roger Guilian, Anderson McKean, Elizabeth Orr, and Ed Shell. There was a discussion regarding the now empty one-year slot that belonged to Effie Thompson. There was a lengthy discussion on how to proceed with the slots open. Three options were determined:

1. Bring in 2018 Alternate, Frances Patton, for Effie's vacant spot, however Travis feels that Frances is not interested in being on the vestry at this time.
2. Choose Dylan or Travis to fill Effie's vacant spot and have the election in January to vote in 4 new members.
3. Take the slate of 5 people with no vote

De then discussed the other roles that will be available, Clerk and Senior Warden. Jim Daniell stated that he does not want to see an election where one person does not get voted into the Vestry.

Frances was contacted to ask her about her interest in serving a one-year term on the vestry beginning in January. She accepted the position and it was decided that

De will have a discussion with the candidates to determine if one of them would like to be the clerk or the one not voted in would become the alternate. Drew Downey made a motion to approve the current slate of candidates, Bill Goetter seconded the motion, and all approved.

Convention Delegates for approval

The following delegate need to be certified for the 2019 Convention: Lisa Hansen, Drew Downey, John Olson, Terry Moore, April Bradley, and Kenneth White-Spunner. The vestry unanimously approved the candidates for convention.

Decision

St. James School Board update and vote

Terry Moore passed around a handout and went over the highlights of the school and activities. He discussed the proposed expansion including fixture purchases to accommodate the increase in classes in 2019-2020 school year. The current temporary board has selected Jennifer Lambert as the new chairman. Terry requested that the Vestry vote to bring the current temporary board back in January with the addition of Jennifer Lambert as the chairman. Bill Goetter made a motion to accept the recommendation and Drew Downey seconded, and all approved.

Bob Keyser asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the October minutes and if not if the vestry could approve the minutes. Drew Downey made a motion to approve the October minutes, Bill Goetter seconded, and all approved.

Next Vestry Meeting – it was decided that the next vestry meeting will take place on January 17, 2019.

Bob Keyser passed out lists of names and address of the people that have sent in their pledge cards. Every vestry member will write a thank you note to the names provided. Notecards and envelopes were also provided.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 8pm to be adjourned by Bob Keyser.

Submitted by Parish Administrator Meghan Fancher.