

St. James Vestry Minutes
Thursday, January 20, 2022

Fr. De Freeman, Fr. Forbes Sirmon, Sr. Warden Jeanie Smith, Clerk Bruce Stone, Treasurer Katie Smith, Parish Administrator Meghan Fancher, Jim Ketchum, Lauren Arington, BeBe Goetter, Earl Jackson, Elizabeth Erwin, Shannon Pesnell, Laura Jones, Ben Coddling, Chris Nelson, Matthew Myrick, Tracy Corte, Peter Gaillard and Mary Statkewicz

Vestry meeting commenced @ approximately 5:45pm

Opening prayer – Fr. De Freeman

Recitation of Mission Statement

Jeanie Smith led meditation – “New beginnings”

Following meditation, De reminded Vestry that St. James is a “Faith based congregation”, welcomed the new incoming Vestry members, and reminded everyone that the new meditation schedule is in the front of our binders

Discussion:

Fr. De asked for a vote to approve his nomination of Bruce Stone as Clerk of the Vestry for the upcoming year, which Bruce had accepted at the annual meeting. Shannon Pesnell made first motion to approve, seconded by Lauren Arington. Vestry voted unanimously to approve Bruce Stone as Clerk for another year.

Fr. De announced his appointment of Jeanie Smith as Sr. Warden, which she has accepted

Fr. De requested nominations from Vestry for election of Jr. Warden, the “people’s warden”. Following a short discussion, it was decided to table nominations until the end of the Vestry meeting

Financial Review:

Jim Ketchum reviewed all of the pertinent St. James financial statements, etc., for the incoming Vestry members. Reminded Vestry that the Finance Committee meets the 2nd week of each month. Advised the Vestry that St. James was \$67,995 under budget for 2021.

A brief discussion of 2022 budget followed, and Jim stated that we should wind up 2022 pledges right around \$1M

Chris Nelson inquired as to whether or not we were continuing to follow prior recommendations for 3 month’s surplus of operating funds, which Jim responded that at the present time, it appears that the surplus from St. James School was helping us in meeting that goal

Fr. De reminded the Vestry that any requests from the Vestry for approval of financial matters and expenditures has previously been approved and recommended by the Finance committee prior to being submitted and proposed to the Vestry for vote and consideration

The proposed budget for 2022 was presented to the Vestry and recommended by the Finance Committee for approval. Earl Jackson made first motion for approval, seconded by Chris Nelson. Vestry voted unanimously to approve the 2022 budget.

Role of the Vestry & duties:

Fr. De reminded the Vestry that we are all representatives of the Parish, and are expected to be “Ambassadors” on Sunday mornings, in particular

He expects the Vestry members to attend Vestry meetings regularly, as well as Parish functions and Sunday morning services

Fr. De reminded the Vestry of the need for confidentiality in all Vestry meeting discussions, and in particular, any topics discussed in Executive sessions are for Vestry only, and not be discussed outside the Vestry

Lastly, he reminded the Vestry that the Vestry duties are not simply to “rubber stamp” everything presented to them

At this time, all those present at the Vestry meeting introduced themselves, with a brief personal background

Fr. De followed with a brief discussion of plans to get out of the Covid “madness”, which may take longer than expected

Fr. De initiated discussion of the possibility of employing a new & additional Curate in the very near future, and that he had someone in particular in consideration. Possibly may extend an invitation to interview sometime in February

At this point, the Vestry went into Executive Session for further discussion

Following Executive Session conclusion, the floor was opened for consideration and nomination of a new Jr. Warden. Clerk Bruce Stone suggested that Lauren Arington be considered. Shannon Pesnell made first motion to approve, followed by Chris Nelson seconding. The Vestry voted unanimously to elect Lauren Arington Jr. Warden, which she graciously accepted

Fr. De requested the minutes from the December, 2021 Vestry meeting be approved. Earl Jackson made first motion to approve, followed by Shannon Pesnell seconding. The Vestry voted unanimously for approval.

Reminder that February Vestry meeting will be on February 24, 2022

Fr. Forbes offered closing prayer

January Vestry meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.