

**St. James Vestry Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 19, 2018**  
**6:00 pm**

Participants: De Freeman, Bob Keyser/Senior Warden, Bruce Stone/Junior Warden, Mark Hopkins Chamblin, Drew Downey, Travis Youngblood, Callie Grisset, Sallie Smith, Terry Moore, Bill Goetter, Jim Daniell, George Huckabay, Dylan Wells, Effie Thompson, Treasurer Pel Henry, Parish Administrator Meghan Fancher, and Clerk of the Vestry Mary Mullins Redditt.

De Freeman opened the meeting at 6:02 pm and all said the Lord's Prayer together.

**Opening Prayer & Recitation of the Mission Statement**

The gathered then recited the mission statement:

*A community anchored in Christ, seeking God, sharing His love, and serving others.*

**Discussion & Decision**

*Resolution to approve Sr. Warden – De Freeman*

De stated that he would like to keep Bob Keyser on to serve another year as Senior Warden to keep some continuity with new staff coming on and major activities ongoing, such as the new pre-school. Bill Goetter made a motion to approve, Terry Moore seconded and all approved.

*Election of Jr. Warden – De Freeman*

De said that he had received interest from Bruce Stone to serve as Jr. Warden and he would like to accept if all are in agreement. Bob Keyser made a motion to accept Bruce Stone as our new Jr. Warden, Terry Moore seconded, and all approved.

*January Vestry Minutes – Bob Keyser*

Bob asked all the vestry members to review the meeting minutes from January. Mary Hopkins made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Bruce Stone seconded and all approved.

*December Financials for Audit – Pel Henry*

Pel said the Finance Committee came up with a budget of \$95 K per month. Doesn't total the entire budget because there are some one-time expenses. We prepare a budget each year because some months we have one-time costs and we try to balance this out throughout the year. Salaries are slightly below budget. There is nothing new in buildings and grounds. Our total expenses were also slightly below budget. We are currently in the black with respect to budget versus expenses. We moved some line items around in unrestricted cash to assist with the planning for the new pre-school. Then Pel handed it over to De to discuss a resolution about Fr. Eric Zubler.

De says that we paid Fr. Eric \$14 K in moving expenses with a 2-year clause for paying this back. With Fr. Eric leaving before one year's time, we have negotiated an arrangement where we would recoup \$9K of this amount, with Fr. Eric's new church, St. Paul's Magnolia Springs contributing \$7 K and Fr. Eric contributing \$2 K. There was a motion from Bill Goetter to approve the reimbursement agreement, a second from Terry Moore and all approved.

#### *Administrative Update – De Freeman*

De says that parishioner Shelley Miller has been hired to be the new pre-school director and she started today. She has an outstanding background and experience to be the new director. We already have students enrolled in the pre-school and should start seeing this income come in.

De also noted that average Sunday attendance is 425. Attendance took a sharp dip around Mardi Gras(!) but we should see that begin to rebound.

#### *Other*

De says we have talked at length about stewardship. He handed out books to each vestry member called *The Treasure Principle*, saying it is not a difficult read and encouraging all to do so

De says the office has been unusually busy with Eric's departure and many activities going on, so he apologizes if our parishioners notice the busyness.

Bob Keyser reminds all vestry members including the newest members that there is a fine line we walk as vestry members being the eyes and the ears of the congregation. Items that come up are brought to De's attention and the vestry's attention and these sometime require confidentiality.

Bob Keyser suggested that we add the following verbiage to the beginning of our mission statement, "We are a community anchored. . ."

Callie made a motion that the mission statement be amended as such, Bill Goetter seconded and all approved.

#### **Executive Session**

The vestry then moved to Executive Session to discuss considerations for a new associate priest.

#### **Closing Prayer**

De closed the meeting in prayer at 7:42 pm.

*Submitted by Mary Mullins Redditt, Clerk of the Vestry*