

Saint James Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
July 17, 2019

The Vestry meeting came to order at 5:30 p.m. Attending were:

Jan Bomar
Jack Bream
Becky Callahan
Dustin Emhart

Erika Farr
Ginny Heckel
Jim Wallis, Treasurer
Linda Barden, Clerk

Approval of Minutes and Reports

Jack made a motion to adopt by consent the minutes of the June 19, 2019 meeting, the Treasurer's monthly report, and the written committee reports not requiring Vestry action. The motion passed.

Senior Warden-Administration

Ginny reminded members that the Vestry Covenant includes a mandate of confidentiality. The Vestry is committed to being transparent in most things, but certain matters require confidentiality. She also reminded members not to share Vestry related emails with their spouse.

Ginny shared a draft letter that will be sent from her on behalf of the Vestry to all the church tellers regarding "Best Practices" for counting the Sunday receipts, reminding them that tellers shall be unrelated individuals. Prior to sending, the letter will be revised to refer to the pertinent governing Canon of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

VPODs will be back serving at the 8:00 service in August.

Vestry members reviewed the proposed Priest in Charge Letter of Agreement which includes employment specifics and details of compensation. Becky made a motion to adopt the proposed Letter of Agreement. The motion passed. The proposed Letter of Agreement is to be forwarded to the Reverend Doris Graf Smith for her input, anticipated acceptance and signature.

If no changes are suggested by Reverend Smith, Wardens Ginny Heckel and Jack Bream will add their signatures and the Letter of Agreement will then be sent to the Bishop's office for his signature. Any suggested changes made by Reverend Smith will require further conversation between Saint James Vestry and Reverend Smith to seek mutual agreement.

Treasurer

Jim initiated a discussion regarding the annual pledge (Canon 20) to the Diocese. Parishes are required to pledge ten percent; Saint James has pledged eleven percent for many years. The Diocese stipulates that parishes can direct any amount over ten percent to the Ministry Innovations Task Force (MITF) which funds parishes or other groups working in unique and unusual ways in partnership with other entities in their communities. Dustin made a motion to pledge eleven percent and direct the extra one percent to the Ministry Innovations Task Force. The motion passed. Vestry members also agreed that recent funding history of the MITF, made possible by the extra one percent commitment to the Diocese, should be shared with the parish.

This is a good opportunity to showcase the presence of Saint James in the greater work of the Church.

Community Outreach

Jan noted that no children have shown up for the Food for Kids this week. Laura Lane with Community Partnership said that travel is the biggest issue; the children have no way to get there if their parents cannot bring them. Jan also said that she donated the leftover hamburgers and hotdogs from the cookout for the First Responders to the Food for Kids project.

Christian Formation

Erika said that she and Brian Phillips need to make some decisions about youth activities since the church has lost a number of children this year. Jan reminded the Vestry we have one family in particular, with three children, that is in the process of joining Saint James

There was a suggestion to revive the activity where church members sponsored a dorm at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School and provided snacks for special occasions. Erika will follow-up with RGNS. Perhaps Saint James can invite other churches to adopt dorms as well.

Finances and Stewardship

Dustin reported on the Diocesan Stewardship Workshop that he attended. One suggestion that he brought back was making online giving available and using QR codes to facilitate this. Saint James is already doing this. Dustin pointed out that Stewardship is year-round. Workshop materials offer suggestions for how to ensure the year-round presence and he will determine how to provide Stewardship messages using existing messaging tools (Messenger, Bulletin, etc). Saint James also plans to set a standard of stewardship of the environment by using less paper and plastic. We plan to emphasize this at the Shrimp Boil and promote it in the Messenger.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Vestry will be Wednesday, August 20, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Linda Barden
Clerk of the Vestry