

St. James Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting (Hybrid)  
October 29, 2024

**Present:** Mother Pilar Padrón Parnell, Warden Bill Spalding, Warden Doug Smith, Marie Hughes, Beckie Hidy, Diane Steckel, Judy Holmes and Carol Murphy.

**On ZOOM:** John Devins and Nicole Bova.

**Absent:** Margie Amberge and Tara Covert-Lanning

**6:00 PM:** The meeting opened with Mother Pilar leading the Vestry in prayer.

**Devotional:** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Beckie Hidy shared her research and thoughts regarding this verse. She emphasized our call to make shalom flourish.

**A pre-read report was sent out to the Vestry, prior to the meeting, with supporting documents.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**1. September Vestry Minutes:** The Vestry reviewed the minutes and found one minor correction. Carol Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes with one minor correction; Marie Hughes seconded; Vestry members approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

**1. September Financials:**

**a. Nicole Bova presented the September financial reports.** The Vestry reviewed the Two-year balance, YTD Budget, Giving Report and St James' Foundation Report, including financial statements of the Thrift Shop. During discussions, Nicole Bova made the Vestry aware of a \$40,000 donation to St. James with the stipulation that \$10,000 be used to pay the staff COLA, not received in 2024. Marie Hughes made a motion to accept the stipulation to disperse \$10,000, of the \$40,000 donation, to pay the staff COLA, not received in 2024; Beckie Hidy seconded; Vestry approved.

Warden Bill Spalding made a motion to approve the reports; Carol Murphy seconded; Vestry approved.

**Senior Warden's Report**

1. Warden Bill Spalding stated that the Stewardship Program is going well.
2. Warden Bill Spalding expressed his concerns about the political atmosphere and asked everyone to remember that we have many differences, but are one family in Christ.
3. Warden Bill Spalding reminded the Vestry not to be overwhelmed when dealing with the budget.

**Junior Warden's Report:**

1. **Tree Removal:** The tree on the east lot line remains a concern, especially a dead limb hanging over the Rectory. Warden Doug Smith is awaiting a response from our neighbors to coordinate removal of the whole tree. The estimate for limb removal is \$2950.00 and removal of whole tree is \$9,500.00. Judy Holmes made a motion to authorize the removal of the limb for \$3000.00 and in the event that negotiations to remove the whole tree is reached before limb removal, the Vestry authorized \$10,000.00 for total tree removal; Marie Hughes seconded; Vestry approved.
2. **Rectory Fencing and Siding:** Warden Doug Smith reports that St. James needs the approval of the Village Historical Committee before any changes can be made on the Rectory property. He requests that St. James' hire Bob Eggleston to help get approval for a vinyl fencing and siding replacement. After discussion, Judy Holmes made a motion to approve \$500.00 to pay fees and to hire Bob Eggleston to appear before the Village Historical Committee for approval of fence and siding changes; Beckie Hidy seconded; Vestry approved.
3. **The Celebration of New Ministry will be March 26, 2025 at 7PM.**
4. **The Nomination Committee:** The committee has compiled a list, made calls and is awaiting responses.
5. **The Building and Grounds Committee:**
  - a. 2 restrooms will need flushing by Roto Router or Village.
  - b. Boiler and fire alarms problems continue. Looking for new service company.
  - c. Nancy Graham and Bev Smith are in the process of deep cleaning the lower-level rooms.

**Old Business:** See Junior Warden's Report

**New Business:**

**1. Convention Update:**

- a. Marie Hughes reports that the convention passed the petition condemning Christian Nationalism.
- b. The Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas gave an excellent key speech stressing that there is no neutrality with injustice.
- c. March 10, 2025 will honor and celebrate Harriet Truman.
- d. The COLA for 2025 will be 3.5%. Marie Hughes suggests that St. Jame should consider 4%. Mother Pilar will mention this to Nicole for consideration.

**Rector's Report:**

1. **Children's Program:** The older children will be attending communion every week and the younger children will start attending communion one week a month.
2. **Advent:**
  - a. Kelly Ellerton will host Advent coffee hour between services.
  - b. Mother Pilar is creating supplement materials for Advent and is considering possible book/bible study opportunities.

**Closing Prayer:** Mother Pilar offered the closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 7:34 PM.

**Next Meeting:** 11/19 at 6PM

**Reminder of Vestry Meeting Date: December 17<sup>th</sup>**

Respectfully submitted,  
Bethany Quattrociochi, Clerk