

St. James' Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting (Hybrid)
September 24, 2024

Present: Mother Pilar Padrón Parnell, Warden Bill Spalding, Warden Doug Smith, Marie Hughes, Beckie Hidy, Margie Amberge, Diane Steckel, John Devins, Tara Covert-Lanning and Carol Murphy.

On ZOOM: Nicole Bova.

Absent: Judy Holmes

6:10 PM: The meeting opened with Mother Pilar leading the Vestry in prayer.

Devotional: "Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God." Tara Covert-Lanning read an essay explaining that God loves us and wants to know us. Jesus wants us to seek him out and have an internal purity of our hearts that desires those things that please him.

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

Approval of Minutes:

1. August Vestry Minutes: The Vestry reviewed the minutes and found one minor correction. Warden Bill Spalding made a motion to approve the minutes with one minor correction; Tara Covert Lanning seconded; Vestry members approved.

Treasurer's Report:

1. August Financials:

a. Nicole Bova presented the August financial reports. The Vestry reviewed financial statement, including financial statements of the Thrift Shop. Marie Hughes made a motion to approve the reports; Carol Murphy seconded; Vestry approved.

Senior Warden's Report

1. Warden Bill Spalding thanked Marie Hughes and Carol Murphy for their time and leadership for the Wednesday Evening Prayer Service. The service will now be part of the Wednesday Healing Eucharist Service at 12PM, which will be live streamed and available to watch at 6PM, the usual Evening Prayer service time.
2. The equipment inventory is near completion. Warden Bill Spalding suggested (now that we are aware of the age of certain items) that the Vestry budget \$3000.00 per year to replace aging equipment.
3. A reminder to outgoing Vestry members to start recruiting possible new members and present them to Nominating Committee.

Junior Warden's Report:

1. Mother Pilar and Warden Doug Smith will be sending out thank you notes to all who helped repair and clean the Rectory and prepare for Mother Pilar's arrival.
2. The downstairs Choir Room area has been cleaned.
3. Warden Doug Smith reports that the bee infestation is being addressed. He has also tried to obtain quotes to deal with the bat problem, but is not getting any responses. He suggested we address this problem in the Spring. Mother Pilar would like to revisit this problem in January 2025.
4. Chimes are in the process of being fixed.
5. The church is still experiencing problem with fire and security alarms. Herrtronics has not been able to resolve the problems and the Building and Grounds Committee is looking for a new company.
6. Rectory siding quotes are being gathered.
7. The Building and Grounds Committee is deciding if they should request that a tree too close to the Rectory should be cut down.
8. Warden Doug Smith has become aware that some people will be unable to attend the convention. Mother Pilar and Nicole will contact the alternates.
9. Safe Church, in person program, will be presented at St. James' on Saturday, September 28th.
10. Warden Doug Smith, Margie Amberge and Diane Steckel will be serving on the Nominating Committee.

Old Business:

- 1. Fencing Replacement around Rectory:** The fencing around the Rectory needs to be replaced. Warden Doug Smith presented quotes and a discussion followed. Marie Hughes made a motion to accept the Gasparini quote of \$13,988.00 to replace the present fence with a vinyl fence, to be paid out of the Hazel Smith Foundation Sleeve. Beckie Hidy seconded and Vestry approved.
- 2. Purchase of Vinyl Anti-Slip Pads:** Marie Hughes made a motion to allot up to \$300.00 to purchase vinyl anti-slip pads for the Rectory, to be paid out of the Hazel Smith Foundation Sleeve; Tara Covert-Lanning seconded; Vestry approved.
- 3. People of Faith & Conscience Against Christian Nationalism:** Mother Pilar led a discussion regarding signing the IREN's statement on Christian Nationalism. Following the discussion, the Vestry felt that this issue would be addressed at the Convention, since it is on the agenda. Individuals should feel free to sign the statement as members of St. James'.

New Business:

- 1. Stewardship:** John Devins presented the Stewardship letter and donation card that will be sent out to members. Both met with Vestry's approval. He shared an outline of all Stewardship activities and also shared that the Stewardship Committee has selected members to share their individual personal relationship with St. James', during Announcements from 10/13/24 to 11/10/24.

* Tara Covert-Lanning noted that the committee will be asking for help stuffing envelopes.

- 2. Sound System:** A broken sound system amp needs to be replaced to continue church programs. After discussion, Warden Bill Spalding made a motion to approve the contract with DCI to replace the broken amp for \$2500.00, with payment coming out of the Hazel Smith Foundation Sleeve. Carol Murphy seconded the motion. Vestry approved the motion.

- 5. Vestry Meeting Dates: October 29th**

November 19th

December 17th

- 6. Increasing Wedding Costs for Non-Members:** The Vestry discussed the recommendation from the Finance Committee to increase the cost for non-member weddings. After discussion, Marie Hughes made a motion to increase the wedding cost for non-members to \$3000.00; Tara Covert-Lanning seconded; Vestry approved.

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. Healing Eucharist:** will be offered at 12 PM Wednesdays and live streamed for later viewing online.
- 3. Worship Participants:** The 9 and 10:45 services will have one paten and 2 chalices at each service.
- 4. Reminder to Employee's Personal Time:** Please respect the personal time of our employees and contact during working hours.
- 5. All Saints' Service:** There will be 3 services honoring all the saints of our community, those baptized, those living and those passed.

Closing Prayer: Mother Pilar

The meeting ended at 7:50 PM.

Next Meeting: 10/29/24 at 6PM

Respectfully submitted,
Bethany Quattrociochi, Clerk