

St. James Vestry Minutes
Thursday, December 12, 2024
5:45PM

Attendees: Rector De Freeman, Associate Priest Amanda Doshier, Senior Warden Jeanie Smith, Junior Warden Margaret Cadden, Treasurer Bruce Stone, Finance Director Jim Ketchum, Parish Administrator Meghan Fancher, Dan Campbell, Ben Coddling, Tracy Corte, Jim Daniell, Bill Dowdle, Dee Gambill, Jennifer Lambert, and Clerk Mary Mullins Redditt.

Absent: Laura Jones, Matt Myrick, Misty Whitehead

Jeanie opened the meeting at 5:48 pm and asked Amanda to open the meeting in prayer.

Opening Prayer -

Amanda opened the meeting in prayer.

Recitation of the mission statement -

The vestry then recited the mission statement together.

We are a community anchored in Christ, seeking God, sharing His love, and serving others.

Meditation – Matt Myrick

Matt was unable to attend the meeting, so there was no meditation.

New Construction Update - Jim

A construction project review was presented and went into Executive Session.

Discussion -

“Church Fuel” Update - De Freeman

We applied for a grant to get \$10 K worth of free advertising to recruit new members.

“Church Fuel” is a Google program that helps churches be recognized as non-profits and recruit additional members. We have been approved as a non-profit and allowed to put Google Analytics on our website and social media so we can see the statistics on how our sites are visited and used. We get back specifics on new visitors and analysis on how to make our website more efficient and effective. This includes the school website, as well. We had to pay \$400-500/year, but the benefits have already exceeded the investment. We can continue as long as we want to by renewing the grant.

Convention Delegates approval

Dan and Misty Campbell, Terry Moore, Margaret Cadden and Terry Kennedy have signed on to be delegates to Convention February 20-22 in Ft. Walton. Beth Moore will be an alternate. We still need a 6th person. ***Dee Gambill made a motion to approve the Convention delegates, Ben Coddling seconded and all approved.***

Parish meeting - Sunday, January 12, 2025, 11:15am

Amended service time - 10:00am only in the church

Laura, Ben and Matt will be rolling off the vestry in the new year.

The four new vestry nominations are Bettsie Norton, Cappi Sully, Bruce Stone and Ken Talbert.

Financial Update Discussion & Decisions – Bruce Stone

2025 Clergy Housing Agreements

De said that each December the Federal Government requires a declaration of housing allowance agreements for clergy. De read the declaration.

Bill Dowdle made a motion that we approve De's housing agreement, Ben seconded and all approved.

Dan made a motion that we approve Amanda's housing agreement, Margaret seconded and all approved.

Tracy made a motion that we approve Forbes' housing agreement, Jennifer seconded and all approved.

Stewardship – update

Bruce said we stand at 153 pledges for a total of \$781,390. This is good and we are optimistic because we were three weeks behind last year in getting the stewardship campaign started. We are just 20 pledges and \$20 K short of where we were this time last year, so we are on track to have a similar year.

Financial report

Income is up \$40 K. Looking good for the end of the year. We typically do well the month of December and the week of Christmas. Expenses are in line. The school is down a bit, but we typically expect tuition to come in at the end of December and January that shows up in February.

Authorization for January & February 2025 expenditures

Bruce said we won't have a budget until we have new vestry members on board, so we need approval to pay expenses we will have over the first two months of the year.

Margaret made a motion to pay \$130 K in expenses in January and February, Dee seconded and all approved.

Approve November Financials

Ben Codding made a motion to approve the financials, Jennifer seconded and all approved.

Other

De thanked Bruce for serving as Treasurer, as well as assisting Margaret, and thanked Margaret for serving as Jr. Warden this past year. A special thank you to Jeanie Smith for serving as Senior Warden. De thanked Mary Redditt for serving as Clerk and asked her to stay on for next year. De has asked Margaret Cadden to step up as Senior Warden next year and she has accepted. The new vestry will choose the Jr. Warden once they convene.

The National Church has recommended that individual churches divest of oil and gas investments. The Finance Committee has chosen not to do so and the vestry was in agreement this was a good decision

Decision

Vote to approve November Vestry Minutes

This was deferred to make some corrections to the November meeting minutes that will be emailed to all vestry members for a vote.

January Vestry meeting -Thursday, January 16, 5:45pm

Closing Prayer

Fr. De closed us in prayer at 6:48 pm