

St James Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
December 14, 2016

Present: Donella Barney, Terry Channing, Karen Derr, Nick Forenz, Esther Kowulich-Covell, Joan Rogerson, Connie VanHouten, Mary White, Rev. Lynne Sharp.

Rev. Lynne opened the meeting with prayer at 7:04 P.M.

1. Approval of minutes

The minutes of November 9 were corrected to indicate Joan Rogerson was present.

Karen moved, seconded by Terry , to approve the minutes as corrected. Carried.

Nick moved, seconded by Connie, to approve the minutes of November 27th special meeting. Carried.

2. Rector's Report

a. The housing allowance requested by Rev. Lynne is \$23915.

Mary moved, seconded by Joan, to approve \$23915 as the housing allowance. Carried.

b. Rev. Lynne will be taking vacation December 26-January 2, 2017. Rev. Linda Leibhardt will cover.

c. Rev. Lynne will attend a clergy retreat February 6-8, which as Dean of the Southeast District she is responsible for planning.

d. College of Congregational Development.

The Diocese is providing an opportunity for two lay people and a priest to attend a week of residential training to encourage churches to engage best practices for spiritual, financial and numerical growth to meet current challenges and opportunities. It is a two-year program. The Diocese is willing to underwrite >70% of the cost, which would be \$850 for all three St. James participants.

Rev. Lynne asks the Vestry to prayerfully consider if it something that St. James would lie to do. She will e-mail after January 1 to assess thoughts.

e. Church insurance inspection will take place December 15.

f. Stained glass window protection

Rev. Lynne asked the Vestry to discuss if we wanted to move forward with the estimates to get the stained glass work done. Rev. Lynne suggested the possibilities of NYS Conservancy grants, and the possibility of seeking Historical Landmark status, and capital campaign. The Vestry discussed and Terry suggested we seek professional guidance for grant opportunities and a grant writer. Rev. Lynne will seek names for professional guidance. Vestry member will start to put out feelers, and the Vestry will discuss further at the February meeting.

g. St James has received notification of a bequest from the estate of Charles Walter Carl in the approximate amount of \$10,000.

3. Senior Warden's Report (Terry Channing)

- a. Terry was able to “unlock” a filing cabinet with no key.

4. Junior Warden's Report (Mary White)

- a. Mary commented on the generosity of the parishioners of St. James for the Christmas family and donations of items for the Food Pantry.

5. Financial (Karen Derr)

Donella moved, seconded by Terry to approve November's financial report. Carried.

Mary, Karen and Rev. Lynne met and developed a 2017 budget of \$114,499.

Mary moved, seconded by Esther to approve the 2017 budget. Carried.

Nick moved, seconded by Terry to transfer \$15,100 from restricted savings to repay loan. Carried.

6. Committee Reports

- a. The Food Pantry has moved and sent St. James a thank-you note.
- b. The Giving Tree has been generously supported by members of St. James.
- c. Socks have been abundantly donated for the VA.
- d. Multipurpose room: consider advertising to sell one or both garage doors .
- e. Evangelism: The Publicity Committee will do the advertising for all church functions.

Rev. Lynne has received many positive comments about the signs advertising church events.

Signs will be made for Youth Group and Game nights

f. Youth

St. James received a thank you from the Boys Varsity Basketball team and coach for the pre-game dinner, where 60 youth and 8 adults were served.

There will be another dinner January 13, 2017.

- g. The Annual Meeting will be January 29, 2017 and Rev. Lynne will need committee reports.

7. Other Business

Christmas gifts to church staff were discussed.

Donella offered the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Bidwell
Clerk of the Vestry