

Vestry Minutes October 28, 2018  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Members Present: Canon Kai Ryan, Mike Watson, Bill Adams, Linda Joseph, Paul Wilborn, Jan Sewall, Mary Black Davis, David Harshaw and Sue Faulkner.

Members Absent: Bunny Johnson (Treasurer), Robert Oliver

Paul opened the meeting at 1223.

Discussion on Transition

The focus of this session was to discuss the transition to a new priest. Canon Kai Ryan facilitated the discussion. She initially stated that the Vestry needs to decide on whether we want a full time or part time Rector. She then asked the Vestry if our budget would support a full time priest. Mike Watson gave a brief synopsis of our five-year plan which shows that our revenue has increased over the last several years, we have no debt, and a parishioner's donation will cover our only major expected expense. Based on the budgetary numbers we received from the Diocese, if we increase our annual revenue with inflation over our 2018 revenue we could support a full time priest. The Vestry was in general agreement of this assessment. We then transitioned to a discussion on our challenge to recruit younger church members and the demographics of the current Parish population. The Vestry agreed that the new Priest needed to live in Lampasas.

Canon Kai then discussed several options of the search process. We could decide to keep with the Priest in Charge although the Vestry thought a full time priest is a better option for St. Mary's at this time. Canon Kai then talked about expedited and complete search options. She recommended that we should conduct a "Holy Cow" survey to prepare for the search and assess the goals and desires of the Parish. She then discussed we could conduct a hybrid of search styles. She recommended that the search committee could be composed of several members of the current Vestry and 3-5 Parish members. She encouraged us not to have spouses of the current Vestry on the search committee if at all possible.

The Vestry agreed that we wanted an interim priest while the Vestry considered its options for searching for a new Priest. Canon Kai will send a list of interim priests for the Vestry to consider. She currently has one person in mind of us to consider immediately. She will contact Paul Wilborn with the information at a later time. The Vestry agreed it was best to extend the schedule of supply priests to the end of the year.

Canon Kai departed at 1328

Follow-on Session of General Business

The meeting continued with a review of the September Vestry minutes. They were approved with little or no discussion. Bunny Johnson was unavailable to discuss the

Treasurer's report. Bill Adams gave a brief synopsis of the report and the Vestry approved the report contingent on Bunny addressing any questions member had at the next meeting in November.

Paul Wilborn then discussed the need for new acolytes. We currently have none so the Eucharistic ministers must perform the duties. Linda Joseph agreed to work with Molly Smith to query the congregation for interested volunteers.

Mike Watson suggested that the vestry ask the Finance Committee members to draft a 2019 budget and present at the November vestry meeting. The Vestry approved this proposal.

Paul Wilborn then discussed the replacement of the out-going members of the Vestry (Sue Faulkner, Robert Oliver and Linda Joseph). The Vestry discussed the names of several Parish members to replace these individuals. Mike Watson agreed to approach several of these members to see if they were interested. The Vestry also agreed to modify the selection process of new Vestry members prior to the annual meeting. The current policy reflects that they will be elected at the annual meeting but for the past several years we have conducted elections prior to the annual meeting in accordance with the desires of Reverend Susie.

The final order business was to establish talking points for Molly Smith to provide interested Parishioners on the transition process since there have been several inquiries. The following talking points were agreed to:

- The Vestry is responsible for selecting a new Priest and is working with the Diocese to complete the selection.
- They recently met with Canon Ryan of the Diocese on October 28<sup>th</sup> to begin the process.
- If you have suggestions please write them down and Molly will provide to the Vestry; or talk to a Vestry member; or come to the next Vestry meeting.

Bill Adams will provide these talking points to Molly.

Meeting adjourned at 1358. Next vestry meeting is November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Secretary of the Vestry, Bill Adams