

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES  
December 20, 2018

**Present:** Senior Warden-Murry Edwards, Junior Warden-Paul Westrom, Treasurer-Chris Bartlett, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Peter Collins, Michelle Freitas, Julie Zecher, Dave Ferkinhoff, David Brierley, Trish Culver, and the Rector- the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick.

**Absent:** Chris Barker and Jenny Williams

Jennifer began the meeting at 6:04 with a prayer.

And then gave thanks and encouraged celebration for all the wonderful things that have happened here in the past year.

- 34 active new members, of which 13 are children / youth
- 18 new pledges for 2019
- 6 baptisms, 2 people received, 12 confirmations
- 65 people enrolled in Journey Through the Bible
- 253 K pledged for 2019, which is a 20% increase over last year's pledging
- Historic church project has shown tremendous success: Phase I is completed,
  - Phase II is funded, on to Phase III
- Capital Campaign (combined donations, pledges and grants) has brought in \$550,000
- Sea Rose is successfully installed in a beautifully renovated Gibbs House
- The Sacred Center marked its 1-year anniversary and has plans for expansion
- Invite, Welcome, Connect is ready to be launched in 2019 with 2 conveners and much enthusiasm

We have much to celebrate and thank God for!!

**Congregational Development** – Chris Bartlett

Chris B. presented the proposed 2019 Budget and discussed various issues. As it is presented right now, the draw on the Endowment is predicted to be 6.5% - DOWN from almost 9% for 2018. This is incredible progress!

Chris also presented many ideas and thoughts about increasing revenue and reducing expenses, including:

- Utilities Audit – we have a very large utilities bill, and hopefully an audit will give us some tips as to reducing it a bit.
- Computer System review and update – This would affect our 2020 budget, but Dave F. and Dave B. has been charged with reviewing our needs and proposing a better, much more functional and less expensive system.
- Also, in 2020, we will re-negotiate our waste contract.
- Chris is looking into promoting St. Mary's as a wedding destination. This has the potential for bringing in \$5-10,000 annually.
- We are looking at reducing staff costs and reconfiguring hours and duties.
- Fundraising events are still a possibility.
- The Sacred Center has plans for experimenting with holding some classes downstairs.

If only some of these ideas are implemented, the Budget might be even lower. Chris Bartlett made a motion, seconded by Paul W. to pass the proposed budget for 2019. The motion carried.

**Housing Allowance – Mattie G.**

Mattie made the following motion:

"Whereas, Internal Revenue Code Section 107, as well as the associated Regulation and Revenue Rulings, provide that the portion of a minister's remuneration, designated as a rental/housing allowance by the employing church or other qualifying organization, is excludable from the minister's gross income under Section 107 of the Code;

and Whereas, St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Portsmouth is a qualifying organization,

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved that a portion of the compensation paid the Reverend Jennifer Pedrick during 2018 is designated as a rental/housing allowance in accordance with the provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code as follows:

Fair Rental Value of Church provided parsonage	\$22,200
Utilities and related costs paid by St. Mary's	<u>\$8,000</u>
Total 2019 Designated Housing Allowance	\$30,200

The motion was seconded by Chris B. The motion passed.

**Solar Panels – Paul W.**

Paul W. moved that the Vestry permit the Executive Committee to negotiate non-binding agreements with RER Energy to develop a solar farm on the Oliphant Lane and St. Mary's property. Dave F. seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion passed.

**By-Laws (again!) – Dave F.**

Dave F. made a motion that the proposed additions to the modifications to the by-laws, already approved by the Vestry at the October 2018 meeting, be approved as presented at this meeting. Dave B. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Consent Agenda**

Paul W. made a motion, seconded by Dave B. that we approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the Minutes from the November 2018 meeting and the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk

**Important upcoming meetings**

January 17, Executive Committee

January 24, Vestry

February 3, Annual Meeting

March 2, Extended Vestry Meeting (9am-12:30)