

St. Andrew's Vestry Minutes 12/10/19

Members Present: Fr. Jeff Packard, Bruce Cramer, Tom Dauler, Andrea deCarle, Christina Ford, Kevin Lowe, Jason McCloskey, Steven Smith, Kathryn Yahner
Members Absent: Michele Hamilton, Greg Loviscky, Connie Puckett, Scott Strouse
Guests: Julie Kwasnica
Clerk: Kevin Lowe
Call to Order: 7:07 p.m.

- I. Opening Prayer - Fr. Jeff
- II. Minutes

Motion: Steven Smith; 2nd Kathryn Yahner – Accept the minutes of the November vestry meeting as distributed. Motion carried with no abstention or dissension.

III. Reports

A. Rector's Report - see Attachment I

B. Wardens

○ Senior Warden:

- worked to help plan January vestry retreat
- gave budget update talk at services on 12/8

○ Junior Warden:

- worked to help plan January vestry retreat
- stewardship numbers are at 130 pledges (\$366,932)
 - We are currently at 92% of Tier 0 projected pledge budget
 - 81% of expected pledgers have pledged at this point
 - The average pledge has increased over where it was last year

C. Treasurer - distributed electronically prior to meeting

- YTD deficit is currently at \$60K

D. Committees and other ministries

- Nominating Committee: 3 people have already been nominated or nominated themselves for vestry positions; committee is inquiring with other possibilities in search of more candidates.

IV. Discussion – Mutual Ministry Review and Retreat

- Retreat: Bald Eagle State Park Nature Inn, **January 11, 2020, 9:00am** (coffee etc. at 8:30am)
- The strategic planning retreat will serve as our mutual ministry review project
- Vestry members should review the most recent Parish Profile as preparation for the retreat

V. Old Business

○ Action Item Register

- #5 – revised wedding policy done
- #7 – walkie talkies are in use
- #15 – Planned giving met 11/19

○ Budget 2020

- **Motion: Steven Smith; 2nd Kathryn Yahner – Approve the 2020 budget, Tier 0, as presented by Finance Committee, with the addition of \$3000 to Trinity House**

utilities.

- Significant discussion over how the budget should be represented and discussed at the 12/15 adult forum.
- Need to emphasize that budget is based on *projected* pledge amounts, not the pledges that have actually been received up to this point, in order to be transparent that the approved budget does not reflect current pledge amounts
- Actual received pledges should also be shown, with the result that Tier 0 will show a much more significant deficit at the end
- Change of terminology: “Tier 0” becomes “Approved Austerity Budget”; “Tier 2” becomes “Restored Budget”; Tiers 1 and 2 may also be referred to as “add-ons”
- Trinity House is currently budgeted for no utility costs; amounts must be added for basic electric/gas bills
- **Motion carried with no abstention or dissension.**

VI. New Business

- Audit 2018: **Motion (Finance): Approve 2018 Audit Report. Motion carried with no abstention or dissension.**
- Conference travel: **Motion: Kevin Lowe; 2nd Steven Smith - Approve \$400 from Vestry Resources to register Kathryn Yahner for “Rooted in Jesus” conference, Atlanta, January 2020. Motion carried with no abstention or dissension.**

Adjourned, 9:18pm

Minutes submitted by Kevin M. Lowe, clerk

Attachment I

Rector's Report to the Vestry
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

1. Pastoral: 3 Wedding preparations
2. Average Sunday Attendance: 179
3. Attended Bible study, 11/14
4. Local Ecumenical Pastors' group, 11/14
5. Mutual Ministry Review w/ Dan Morrow, 11/17
6. Met with Planned Giving committee, 11/19 (AIR#15)
7. Met with wardens to plan retreat, 11/19
8. Did 3 overnights with Out of the Cold
9. Finance Committee, 12/9
10. Confirmation Classes continue on Thursday evening. Will have the final Thursday class this week. Will then schedule one more class for a Saturday morning in the new year and invite the whole parish to it. That session is titled, "Everything you ever wanted to know about the Episcopal Church but were afraid to ask." I'll probably have one more session with those getting confirmed closer to the date of the bishop's visit, which is 3/17/20. There are seven adults in the class.
11. Kistler Trust: The good news is that we received all of the documentation that we have requested: the tax returns for the trust from the past several years, and the accounting of the two buildings. I have forwarded this information to Doug Lovisky, our attorney. The bad news is that the offer of \$13,000,000 is no longer on the table. Apparently, they were unable to come to terms with one of the tenants who was hoping to recoup some of their capital improvements on the property. They reached agreements with almost all of the tenants in this regard, but the one holdout was seeking too much money. For now, the two properties will continue to operate as commercial rental space. Mr. Campbell, the attorney for the trust, tells us that they plan to (finally) execute the trust. In other words, they will distribute the ownership in the two buildings. We should end up with a piece of paper that says we are the 1.67% owners of these two buildings. I don't think that will change the amount that we receive each year, only that it will come directly from the property management company rather than from the trust. Mr. Campbell says that there may still be an opportunity to sell the properties to a developer in the future, given that the hold-out tenant's lease will run out eventually. He thought that in a few years they may be open to accepting less to buy out the lease. Bottom line: For now, we do not expect a major windfall from this bequest any time soon. We may be able to sell out to the other owners, but the offers made before were low balls.
12. Parish Discernment Committee for Kevin Lowe: We had a training session for Kevin's PDC on 12/4, which consists of Medora Ebersole, Tom Hall, Carolyn Holt, Allison Shea, Matthew Thompson, and Walter Wells. They are currently working.
13. Parishioners' Ministry had a counterfeit check cashed against their account. The account is currently in a "protected state." There is only one check outstanding. They already have a new account number. Oddly, the counterfeit check for only \$30.53. We have notified the bank that we would be willing to prosecute the counterfeiter if caught.
14. Ongoing: Diocesan Standing Committee; Monthly Episcopal Clericus; Bimonthly Clergy Council with Bishop; Bimonthly local ecumenical/interfaith leaders meeting; Supervising Kevin Barron at St. Luke's, Altoona
15. Upcoming: Taizé Wednesday evenings; Lessons and Carols, 12/15; Blue Christmas at Grace Lutheran, 6:30p 12/19; Christmas Eve services, 6 & 10; Christmas Day, 10a; Vestry Retreat, 1/11