

St. James Episcopal Church  
4620 California Street, San Francisco, CA  
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting on August 24, 2016

Vestry members present: Ann Rieger-Matthews, Carla Borsoi, Tracey Thomas, Ullrich Schwertschlag, Petrina Grube, Carol Overman.  
Others present, Allan LeBlanc, The Rev. Jim Ward, The Rev. Ayanna Moore

The meeting opened with Open Reflections, and centered on the theme of How to Build Community.

**FIA report:**

Ayanna made a presentation about the many efforts of the Faith in Action (FIA) committee. It is the FIA's desire to meet quarterly with the Vestry for guidance and input.

The committee is composed of Heather Aston Miles, Petrina Grube, Roger Wickstrom, Ayanna Moore, Barbara Webb, and Nancy Newmeyer. There has been an opportunity to work with and meet members from other congregations, notably Star of the Sea and St. John's Episcopal Church, (and they have worshipped with these congregations).

FIA participated in National Night Out and met numerous law enforcement officers in the process. They would like to build a bridge with police throughout the Richmond district. Some highlights of FIA actions and goals include:

- \* Continue to focus on the housing crisis in conjunction with the Planning Association of the Richmond and the Housing Right's Committee.
- \* Interfacing with a contact in Eric Mars' office to get traction and presence.
- \* FIA has been approached by activists in the North Beach and Western Addition neighborhoods inquiring if FIA would be interested in a 'vigil,' a sort of ministry of presence for elderly people who have been targets of evictions.
- \* In October a Candidate Forum is scheduled to take place at St. James. FIA has invited 10 candidates and had received confirmation from 3 so far. This is part of the larger mission of FIA and St. James to bring the housing crisis into focus with all supervisors.
  - 1) There will be numerous housing-related questions from the 10 Richmond candidates which might serve as a baseline document for other districts.
  - 2) The Faith in Action platform is Vote Your Faith.

Ayanna received a grant from the UCC for one election year, with the purpose of focusing on voter education and voter registration.

- \* Ayanna's vision for this grant is to dedicate \$1,000 to St. James, and \$1,000 to her church.
- \* For the October 2nd Candidate Forum some of the monies could be used for hosting a reception, gas \$ for volunteers, and printed materials, which might include a banner.
- \* Additionally, she would like to host a voter registration event outside of church, encouraging Millennials and residents returning home from work to stop by and register.
- \* Carla Borsoi has indicated her willingness to write a blog for Ayanna.

\* Ayanna is also seeking potential administrative help in helping to track the finances.

**\*\*The Vestry approved the acceptance of the \$1,000 grant for voter education and empowerment.**

**Treasurer Report** - Allen LeBlanc:

- \* Accruals are the most accurate reflection of the status of St. James' current financial health.
- \* The church has raised significantly more than budgeted for holidays, memorials, etc., and currently shows an excess of \$4,000.
- \* Special event fundraising is budgeted at \$8,000 for the year. We raised \$5,900 in the spring.
- \* Spending is on track, and is lower for liturgical costs, about \$4,500 under what was budgeted.
- \* September 21 is the due date for a Preliminary Budget.

**\*\*The Vestry approved The Rev. Jim Ward's entire Sabbatical compensation from St. James to be designated as housing allowance.**

**\*\*The Vestry approved the Minutes of the May and June Vestry Meetings.**

**Christian Education Committee** - Petrina Grube

- \* 11/6 is the Bishop's Ranch Retreat and the book study will be "Keeping the Sabbath Wholly."
- \* 11/13 John will host a forum on Sabbatical Tales

**Membership Committee** - Carla Borsoi

- \* The team has not met for a while and is somewhat behind with Facebook posts. It seems hard to check the views the page has received, and Carla has tried posting different days and different times of day.
- \* The role of 'greeters' was put forth by Jim, and suggested that this helps solve the issue of having 'designated greeters' who feel the burden of responsibility solely on themselves. He reminded us that it is everyone's responsibility to be a greeter to visitors.

**Parish Life Committee** - Tracey Thomas

- \*It is the Parish Dinner season. Tracey encouraged everyone to sign up for a parish dinner.
- \*It was discussed that John Harrison could surely use some help with his sailing outing, and that to make it worthwhile it is likely that 8-10 people should be on the boat for each sailing session.
- \*On September 25 St. James will host a BBQ in the courtyard following the 10 am service.

**Stewardship Committee** - Ann Rieger-Matthews and Jim Ward

- \*The Committee has worked on coming up with a good slogan, and it is currently: "Together: We Pray, We Serve, We Remember, We Take Ownership of our Community."
- \* Work is proceeding with producing an annual pledge packet.
- \* \*Ayanna has agreed to speak about generosity and stewardship, potentially on October 2, as well as October 9 for a final session.
- \* September 12 is next meeting.

**Fall fundraiser**

Now seen to be a blend of music, food and art.

- \* Hoping to raise \$5-10,000
- \* Need to reach out to area businesses
- \* Creative Canopy, Green Apple Books, Foggy Notions
- \* Compile list of musicians to come and play
- \* Current date set for 11/12
- \* Focus on parishioners at St. James who are artists
- \* Portion of artists' proceeds to benefit St. James
- \* Need to make planning of this event a priority. This will require much help
- \* Must procure art
- \* Procure musicians
- \* Figure out food (Tracey enthusiastically stepping into this role!)
- \* Set up and decoration
- \* Publicity
- \* Admission/cashier needed
- \* Clean up
- \* Furniture moving for pre and post event
- \* Committee should be designated for this, not make it solely the work of the Vestry
- \* Auction off 4-5 really great items/experiences
- \* Theme for the event: Art of Living

**The next Vestry meeting will be September 28 at 7 p.m.**

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Carol Overman, Clerk