

St. John's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
February 20, 2022
Held In-Person

In Attendance: Fr. Hahneman, Mr. Bauer, Ms. Bent, Mr. Brown, Ms. Coles, Ms. Daly, Ms. Davis, Ms. Dulack, Mr. Gillespie, Mr. Kalnins, Mr. Littlefield

Absent: Joseph Claro, Susan McFeely

Opening Prayer

Fr. Hahneman opened the meeting with a prayer.

Voting on Minutes from January 16th Vestry Meeting

The Vestry approved the minutes as presented.

Finance Committee Report

As Mr. Claro was not in attendance but sent a report which Littlefield presented:

Our bookkeeper and auditor resigned in January. We are conducting a search for both positions. Our preferred candidate for auditor, Mark M. Nak, has many years of experience with the Episcopal church. Our search for bookkeeper will be based upon skills and the importance of the person being local. Mr. Claro will be in contact with Priscilla Williams, CPA of New Milford, in search of recommendations.

The monthly draw was reduced from 4.5% to 0.00% as we currently have \$145,00 in cash. We can change the monthly draw if needed, understanding that it will take 30 days to reactivate.

The bequest of approximately \$295K from Hedda von Goeben was transferred to the "D&B" account. It was agreed that we should be more pro-active in promoting bequests. Ms. Bent and Ms. Davis will work on a proposal to increase bequests to the St. John's Legacy Fund.

Mr. Gillespie recommended that all bequests of \$5,000 or more should immediately be transferred to the D&B account to facilitate investment. The Vestry voted and approved this recommendation.

Wardens Report

Mr. Gillespie noted that Dawn is doing well and that she has taken oversight of our new handyman. It was noted that any plowing/ice melt that needs to be done Sunday morning should be completed between 7:30AM-8AM in preparation for the 8AM service. Ms. Daly will send a reminder to Dawn about this.

St. John's Foundation 2021 Annual Report

Ms. Davis reviewed the Foundation's 2021 Annual Report:

To December 30, 2021, The Foundation has raised a total of \$1,451,304, with current assets of \$133,970. 2021 Projects that were complete included:

The restoration of the Front, East side and back doors.

Installation of the awning at the East door entrance.

A Foundation Appeal letter raised enough money to cover the cost of these repairs.

The Foundation is temporarily facilitating the collection and distribution of funds on behalf of the Washington Refugee Resettlement Project (WRPP) until the WRPP becomes able to take over operating separate financial accounts.

Future restoration projects include the church windows, mortar replacement casted moldings around doors/windows, plastering, painting. Additional funds will be sought, as necessary.

The elected Directors for 2022: Rod Pleasants, Hunter Brown, Ted Bent.

Ms. Davis thanked departing Director Rebecca Bent for her tireless service.

St. John's Wardens (Mr. Gillespie, Ms. Davis), Treasurer (Joseph Claro) and Fr. Hahneman are also on the Foundation's Board. The Vestry approved Mr. Gillespie's motion to approve the members of the Board.

Priest-In – Charge Report

Fr. Hahneman reviewed the Parochial Report, due March 1. The Vestry approved the report as amended.

Lent/Covid Protocols

Fr. Hahneman and the Vestry discussed the timing of the removal of the mask mandate and the offering of wine. No changes yet but these protocols will be revisited in about 6 weeks. The hope is that we will be unmasked and receive bread and wine for Easter service.

Services for Lent Easter:

Evening service for Ash Wednesday

Palm Sunday (with Palms)

Evening service for Maundy Thursday

Stations of the Cross only for Good Friday (no service)

No Easter Vigil Service

Sunday Easter service at 10Am (no 8AM) with an Easter Egg Hunt that St. John's will promote town-wide to bring families back to the church. Ms. Witt, and Ms. Bent will coordinate the hunt.

March 12 Parish Gathering with Father Joseph Shepley

Fr. Joseph Shepley, from St. Paul's in Brookfield, who is our facilitator for our upcoming transition discussions, met with the new vestry. He will be working with The Rev. Tim Hodapp, Canon for Mission Advancement & Coaching as we explore the future of St. John's and its missions.

Note: Fr. Hahneman's contract ends on 12/31/22. He has indicated his potential willingness to remain at St. John's until we have a replacement.

Fr. Shepley said the focus of the March 12 Parish meeting (from 9am-Noon) should be to start to determine our goals via group discussions based upon selected topics and share these ideas with the entire groups to gain a consensus. It is important that as many parishioners as possible attend this meeting, so the consensus of the group is truly representative of the parish. It was therefore determined that 30-40 participants would be ideal.

It Vestry decided that coffee and breakfast will be offered to increase participation.

The Vestry also decided that a formal invite, with an RSVP, be sent to parishioners to increase participation.

Concerns

The Vestry did not raise any concerns.

Fr. Hahneman closed the meeting with a prayer.

Submitted by Laura Daly