

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

**In Attendance:** Fr. Hahneman, Jay Bauer, Hunter Brown, Joseph Claro, Sara Coles, Laura Daly, Mary Davis (on Zoom), Veronique Dulack, David Gillespie, Andris Kalnins, Larry Littlefield, Susan McFeely

**Absent:** Rebecca Bent

**Opening Prayer**

Fr. Hahneman opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Voting on Minutes from January 16th Vestry Meeting**

The Vestry approved the minutes that were revised and submitted on March 20<sup>th</sup> (attached for reference). Laura notified the Vestry that going forward, minutes will also include action items, to be highlighted.

**Finance Committee Report**

We have \$144,000 in the General Account and \$17,000 in our restricted account.

The reinvestment of the bequest of approximately \$295K from Hedda von Goeben has been completed.

Per Geoff, Rebecca and Mary have made progress on a proposal to increase bequests to the St. John's Legacy Fund and they will report on their progress at the next Vestry meeting.

Joseph reported that Ms. Priscilla Williams has been hired as our bookkeeper. Ms. Williams does not require a contract and the Vestry agreed that she will be set up as an independent contractor. It is estimated that her monthly hours will translate to between \$400-\$600 per month.

We also have a new auditor, Mark Makuch. His contract will be sent to him the week of March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Joseph and Mary will work to set up a debit card for Dawn to pay for purchases on behalf of the church instead of her being reimbursed.

Joseph reported that we now have a credit card system to process donations, such as Easter Flowers, which will be overseen by MB Witt.

Mary reported that we have reinstated our house account at Washington Food Market. These invoices will be sent to Dawn.

## **Property Committee Update**

Susan reviewed Dawn's role as point person for any issues involving the property and grounds, including any issues concerning the rectory. Dawn will also manage Dave, our handyman, and schedule his time for various projects in the most cost-effective way.

The lease for the rectory is up for renewal in July. There has been no confirmation to date that Ira will renew.

The internet has been down for the last two Sundays, preventing us from live streaming our services. **Joe will ask Dawn to find a local IT individual who can assess and fix this situation.** David put forth a motion to pre-approve up to \$500 to fix our current internet problems, The Vestry voted and approved this expenditure.

## **Wardens Report**

### Update on WRRP

Mary talked about the April 9<sup>th</sup> fundraiser for the Washington Refugee Resettlement Project (WRRP). **Laura will send the invite to Geoff who will add it to our Friday Eblast.**

The family the WRRP is sponsoring will arrive on March 28<sup>th</sup>. It is a family of 6, who speak some English, and can avail themselves of the interpreters the WRRP already have on hand.

### Next Steps in Setting Goals for the Future of St. John's

Mary has agreed to oversee the process of setting our goals for the future. She has distilled the notes from the All-Parish meeting down to 3-4 key goals. It was agreed that the Vestry have a thorough discussion at our next meeting. In preparation for this discussion, **Mary will bring all information culled from the meeting and her distillation.**

After the Vestry agrees on our key goals, **we will schedule another parish breakfast to review and discuss.**

## **Priest-In – Charge Report**

Geoff addressed some of the specific concerns voiced in the all-parish meeting.

Choir issues continue to be a source of tension. Listening and addressing these concerns is important as music is a key element of both worship and outreach for St. John's. Our musical events (L&C, fall concert) draw a larger crowd than typical Sunday attendance.

Lack of communication was another concern voiced at the all-parish meeting. We are communicating more than we ever have with the weekly eblasts and Sunday service emails. The Vestry interpreted this "lack of communication" as a need for more gathering and togetherness. While Covid has been a hindrance, we hope to schedule gatherings as Covid restrictions are lifted:

**A Potluck Picnic, which Susan and Veronique will coordinate.**

A Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner and talent show. Laura Daly will coordinate.

Spring Training: From March 21 – April 2 ECCT provides presentations on Zoom about everything from Worship, Vestries, and Creation Care to Parish Administration and Website development. More information and registration details are here: [Spring Training | Episcopal Church in Connecticut \(episcopalet.org\)](#)

Episcopal Visitation: Bishop Ian will visit St. John's on May 22nd and we will have a vestry meeting on that day. Bishop Ian has asked that we read MLK's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" as its discussion will be part of our Vestry meeting. A link to this letter is here: [Letter from Birmingham Jail, by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. \(letterfromjail.com\)](#)

The Vestry meeting for April will be on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Geoff will be away and not attending this meeting. This was deemed appropriate as the bulk of this meeting will be to discuss our future as voiced in the all-parish meeting. This is our work to do, not Geoff's.

### **Concerns**

The Vestry did not raise any concerns.

Fr. Hahneman closed the meeting with a prayer.

**Next Meeting: April 24th**

Submitted by Laura Daly