

St. John's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
January 22, 2023, Held on ZOOM

In Attendance: Joseph Claro, Sara Coles, Laura Daly, Mary Davis, Michael Del Nin, Veronique Dulack, Fr. Geoff Hahneman, Andris Kalnins

Absent: Jay Bauer, Rebecca Bent, Hunter Brown, Susan McFeely, David Gillespie

Guest: Penny Bardel, Nominating Committee

Opening Prayer: Fr. Geoff Hahneman opened the meeting with a prayer.

Voting on Minutes from December 18, 2022, Vestry Meeting: The Vestry approved the minutes as presented. Minutes will be posted online and by the parish office door.

Finance Committee Report: In preparation for St. John's annual meeting, YTD, Balance Sheet and the 2023 Draft Budget have been completed. Joe noted that these reports are the most comprehensive financial updates since Larry Littlefield's departure. Fr. Geoff thanked Joe for his work on our finances given his time as Treasurer coincided with many changes in support staff. Joe is stepping down as Treasurer.

The 2023 Draft Budget shows St. John's operating at a net loss. Operating in the black requires an increase in new members/donations, increased giving from current membership, or a decrease in expenditures. The growth in steady income is critical for the future of St. John's determining what kind of priest (full-time, parttime, or less) we will be able to call when Fr. Geoff leaves.

Nominating Committee Report: Penny reviewed the slate that she will present at the annual meeting that requires a vote:

Andris and Sara have completed their 3-year term on the Vestry and are willing to serve for another 3-year term.

Jay is up for Warden for a 2-year term, replacing David, who will become Treasurer.

Michael began serving on the Vestry to replace Larry Littlefield. As this appointment occurred prior to the annual meeting, Michael's continued presence on the Vestry will require a vote.

MB & Sara have completed their 1-year term as Diocesan Delegates and are willing to serve another 1-year term. Laura is up for Delegate Alternate.

The bios for the slate and current Vestry members will be published online and will also be available at the Parish Office.

Fr. Geoff thanked Penny and the other members of the Nominating Committee (Ted Bent, Justin Ormand) for their work in identifying/recruiting candidates.

Property Committee Update: Beyond small day-to day repairs, the most important work for the Property Committee is to present the Vestry with estimates on the work needed to update the Rectory, and to have those repairs done in time for the rental season beginning in April. Mary will follow up with Susan.

Update on Legacy Society: Ann Burton has agreed to compile a history of St. John's, to be part of the Legacy Society's information packet educating parishioners about planned giving. The Legacy Society (Mary, Rebecca, Richard Snider) will present the Vestry with a recommended strategy for planned giving with a Spring/Summer start date.

Update on Social Gathering/Hospitality: Laura reported that MB Witt is doing a great job with planning the annual meeting potluck. As of the Vestry meeting, there are 19 volunteers signed up to bring food. We have a limited volunteer list to oversee coffee hour, but it was agreed that this time of fellowship is very important and should be part of all services, but that will require many more people stepping up to assist. While Laura will continue to recruit volunteers, she will create an inventory of non-perishable items for coffee hour. She will also investigate a programmable 50-cup coffee maker and replace the hot water kettle.

Vestry will consider funding coffee hour for the next six months to make sure it is always a part of our numerous services while we bolster our list of volunteers.

Laura also mentioned having a monthly lunch made available for the community. While this is more in Veronique's wheelhouse under Outreach, Laura will investigate the Washington Senior Center for a possible collaboration.

Warden's Report: Mary reported that the work on the budget and nominating slate were the key actions for last month.

Rector's Report:

Annual Report

The annual report has been completed in preparation for the annual meeting and is in the process of final edits. Geoff will include the report Sara completed on Lay Preachers and Lay Worship Leaders, which was inadvertently omitted from the Annual Report. A complete, corrected report will be distributed online and at the annual meeting.

Church Attendance

Fr. Geoff reported that the family service is growing and is comprised of energetic and engaged participants. There is also growing interest in a children's choir. In general, there is a growing number of new members coming to St. John's and attendance by the "rank and file" is stabilizing.

Our Future

Fr. Geoff also reminded us that we must think about what our future will look like when he leaves. Mary suggested holding a "visioning" retreat at her house for the Vestry. Fr. Geoff also added that he would include a review of what a Vestry is and does, particularly for new members.

Washington Council of Congregations

Fr. Geoff also remarked that while area churches came together during covid, it will take a consistent effort to keep this cooperation going, if there is to be no reverting back to a silo mentality.

Solar Panels for Parish House Roof

Fr. Geoff continues to investigate solar panels and a generator for the Parish House roof, to serve as a heating/cooling station for the community during power outages. This community service is considered an important and valuable outreach to the community. Mary suggested that this project, and what it represents, be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Concerns/Questions: Veronique requested that we include a discussion of the outreach and discretionary budget in the next meeting's agenda.

Next Meeting: Tentative date is February 19. This meeting will include our "visioning" and Geoff's overview of what a Vestry does. Mary will conduct a doodle poll among Vestry members to get a consensus on the best date for this meeting.

Closing Prayer: Geoff closed the meeting with a prayer.

Submitted by: Laura Daly