

St. John's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
December 16, 2020
Held Via ZOOM

Present: Fr. Hahneman, S. McFeely, D. Campbell, S. Coles, M. Davis, B. Futh, D. Gillespie, A. Kalnins, L. Littlefield, R. Futh

Absent: J. Beattie, R. Bent, H. Brown, C. Dubow, M.B. Witt (all excused)

Opening Prayer

Fr. Hahneman opened the meeting with a prayer.

Nominating Committee

Fr. Hahneman reported on his conversation with Penny Bardel, who is the chair of the nominating committee, which also includes Ted Bent and Constance Littlefield. The committee has received sufficient nominations to fill the upcoming vacancies on the vestry. The candidate pool is diverse and the committee expects to have a slate of candidates to present to the January vestry meeting. The slate then will be presented at the parish's annual meeting for an up or down vote.

October Minutes

The minutes for the November meeting were approved, with noted corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Littlefield reported that approximately \$182,000 in 2020 pledges have been received, out of a total 2020 pledge base of approximately \$200,000. For 2020, there were 53 pledges made, and, to date, only 2 pledges are completely outstanding. Thus far, for 2021, 27 pledges have been recorded, totaling approximately \$135,000. An application to forgive the parish's PPP loan has been filed and is expected to be acted on within the next two months. An application for a grant of up to \$2,000 was made to the ECCT to reimburse the parish for costs incurred in connection with the new streaming camera and equipment, which cost approximately \$8,000. The grants are to be awarded out of a fund of \$52,000, on a first-come, first serve basis. There is approximately \$70,000 in the operating account and \$13,000 in the restricted account. Also discussed was the continuing need to sort out signature cards for the parish accounts. It was agreed that there would be three signatories on the accounts, including the treasurer, assistant treasurer and a warden. Work is continuing on a proposed budget for 2021.

Foundation Report

Ms. Davis reported that the Foundation currently has approximately \$93,000 in cash, and accounts receivable of approximately \$35,000 from outstanding pledges, some of which she expects to receive prior to the end of the year. Due to favorable market performance, the Foundation generated income of approximately \$2,700 in November. Also discussed was the possibility of applying for a grant from the ECCT of up to \$8,000 for capital expenditures to be made in connection with restoration of the church doors. The grant may be applied for only after the improvements have been completed.

Building Use Committee Report

Ms. McFeely asked that it be reported that the rectory rental is proceeding smoothly, and that the tenants have extend through March and likely will be interested in further extending the lease. Francisco and Marjorie continue to reside in the cottage, and they have been very helpful in volunteering for various maintenance projects around the campus. Ms. Campbell noted that there

an unsightly and potentially hazardous heap of rubbish that has accumulated next to the cemetery, and it was agreed that this condition should be mitigated.

Warden's Report

On behalf of the parish, Mr. Gillespie thanked Ine Laverge for the donation of the lighted wreath on the outside of the church, and also Francisco and Ms. Witt for hanging and connecting the wreath, as well as for hanging the advent wreath in the sanctuary, which is visible during the streaming services. He also thanked Ms. Davis for her special contribution this past year in sorting out the parish's new accounting procedures, and also Mr. Littlefield for his contribution as treasurer to this special effort.

Priest-in-Charge Report

1. Fr. Hahneman indicated that, in light of the Covid situation, he is planning to have two streamed services for Christmas Eve, a family service at 5:00 and a later (almost) midnight mass at 10:00. He also indicated that on December 27th, he will be off duty, and, rather than doing a streamed service from St. John's of morning prayer or incurring the expense of a supply priest, that parishioners be encouraged to participate in the streamed service originating from the Cathedral.
2. Fr. Hahneman stated that, in light of the Covid situation, we should expect to have the 2021 annual meeting via ZOOM. That meeting will take place on the fourth Sunday in January.
3. Fr. Hahneman described his ongoing inquiry into potential use of the emergency fund in connection with the installation of solar panels on and storage batteries in the parish house, to insure that it would have power during emergency outages. This would provide subsidized power to the parish and facilitate use of the parish as an emergency facility. He is exploring a financing structure that would involve a taxable entity owning the panels to take advantage of available alternative energy tax credits, which entity would enter to a power purchase agreement with the parish, under which the parish would acquire the generated solar energy at rates effectively subsidized by the tax credits.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer.