

**St. John's Episcopal Church**

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**

**July 17, 2022**

**Held In-Person**

**In Attendance:** Hunter Brown, Sara Coles, Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, David Gillespie, Fr. Geoff Hahneman, Andris Kalnins, Susan McFeely.

**Absent:** Jay Bauer, Rebecca Bent, Joseph Claro, Mary Davis.

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

**Voting on Minutes from April 24th Vestry Meeting:** The Vestry approved the minutes, and they are now online.

**Finance Committee Report:** Per Joseph, in an email sent to the Vestry on Sunday morning, and an email sent to Laura:

We have \$130,761.64 in the Union Savings Operating Account, and \$17,439.16 in Savings. Ms. Priscilla Williams, our new bookkeeper, assured Joe that a full financial report will be ready to distribute by mid-August.

The vestry approved the creation of a Finance Committee, and Fr. Hahneman announced the following members of the Committee:

Susan McFeely – Chair

Hunter Brown

Joseph Claro

Mary Davis

David Gillespie

Andris Kalnins

**Property Committee Update:** Susan informed the Vestry that our new contract with Mitchell Oil (effective 7/1/22 – 6/30/23) represents an increase of \$15,000 (50%) over the previous contract.

Ira has renewed the lease on the rectory for the next six months, beginning 7/18. This request for a six-month lease is due to Ira's needing to tend to his ill brother in Florida. Susan noted that the rectory in is need of repairs, including the replacement of many windows.

Susan also reported the estimate for needed landscaping (weeding, mulching, tree trimming/removal, planting) is \$25,000. Susan recommended using the landscaping company that Rod Pleasants uses that would add leverage for them to do right by us. Additionally, their pricing is comparable to other companies investigated for this work.

The Vestry voted to approve this \$25,000 property expense, effectively increasing the current budget line item from \$55,000 to \$80,000. While don't have current financials, and do not know how much room there is in the \$55,000 item, we voted to increase the amount of this line item as we currently appear to have sufficient operating cash to support it.

Susan also noted that the Cottage needed electrical work, which was a necessary repair. This work was completed as the annual budget included monies for repair.

Fr. Hahneman noted that ECCT has property improvement grants:

<https://www.episcopalct.org/property-improvement-grant/>

**Update on Legacy Society (Mary and Rebecca):** The legacy society is still in the planning stages.

**Update on Social Gatherings:**

Fr. Hahneman notified the Vestry that a 5PM Family Service will be held on the second Saturday of the month from October through May. There will be young adult religious education on those Saturdays at 4PM.

Fr. Hahneman has created a one sheet to promote both (attached). Laura will use this information to develop a press release and coverage in Voices and the town's newsletter, as well as creating posters to put up around town and neighboring areas.

A Welcome Back party will immediately follow a service in September (9/18). This party will also feature a Ministry Fair, comprised of booths with information about lay preaching, leading Morning Prayer, and roles that need to be filled for Eucharistic services: crucifer, chalice, VJ, Reader, Altar Guild. We still need to create a committee to plan and oversee this event.

**Warden's Report:** David informed the Vestry that he, Fr. Hahneman and Bishop Ian are working out the details of Fr. Hahneman's contract renewal. Under the terms of the revised contract mandated by the diocese, Geoff may be entitled to leave days on one additional Sunday per month. This means that for those additional Sundays, the parish may need to rely on lay leadership or supply priests.

**Concerns:** No Concerns were raised

**Open Action Items From Previous Meetings:**

Rebecca and Mary continue to work on a proposal to increase bequests to the St. John's Legacy Fund.

Joseph and Mary continue work to set up a debit card for Dawn to pay for purchases on behalf of the church.

Joseph to gain access to the portal which allows the generation of paychecks.

Wardens to send consolidated take away of all parish meeting to all parishioners and set up the next breakfast meeting.

Laura will coordinate a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner and talent show for Tuesday, 2/21/23

**Next Meeting:** August, date TBD.

**Closing Prayer:** Fr. Hahneman closed the meeting with a prayer.

Submitted by: Laura Daly