

St. John's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
October 15, 2023
Held In-Person

In Attendance: Rebecca Bent, Worth Bracken, Sara Coles, Laura Daly, Mary Davis, Veronique Dulack, Fr. Hahneman, Andris Kalnins, Susan McFeely

Excused: Jay Bauer, Joseph Claro, Michael Del Nin, David Gillespie,

Geoff called the meeting to order at 11:35AM

Opening Prayer

Geoff opened the meeting with a prayer.

Voting on Minutes from September 24 Vestry Meeting

The Vestry approved the minutes from our September 24th meeting with one revision: Appreciation Sunday will be November 19th. The minutes have been posted online and put in the Parish House.

Finance Report

In his absence, David sent an email on St. John's current financial status, which the Vestry acknowledged. Geoff has requested that loose plate income be listed as a separate line item. Mary will work with Jane to revise financial reporting to include this line item and to track performance. An estimate of loose plate will also be included in budgeting for next year.

Property Report

Susan reported that the windows for the rectory will be installed in December. Susan also reported that the rental market is not as robust as hoped and the rectory remains vacant. There will be a showing for a year rental the week of 10/15. The Vestry noted that we need a long-term plan for the rectory as part of the planning for the future of St. John's.

Holiday Fete

Susan announced that she and MB will be retiring from Fete planning after this year. Hays Worthington and a cheese vendor (replacing The Pantry) will be the only vendors this year. The Fete continues to need auction items that have proven successful, such as dinners and experiences. Susan will send the Vestry a list of current donations in hopes of building the list. Donations for the Couture Closet are also needed. The goal is to have all donations in by Thanksgiving.

November 4th Parish Gathering: Wine, Cheese, and Conversation

Mary distributed a document that reviewed the comments from the Breakfast Gathering on April 22, 2022, on visioning St. John's future (attached), and a schematic for the upcoming continuation of this conversation on November 4th from 4-5:30 (also attached). Laura Suggested that the November meeting be run in the World Café style: a discussion method designed to create a safe, welcoming environment in which to intentionally connect multiple ideas and perspectives on a topic by engaging participants in several rounds of small-group conversation. The World Café method is particularly useful when you want to be sure to explore a topic from multiple perspectives, to ensure that everyone in a room contributes to a conversation, and/or when you want to encourage participants to make new connections. The method can also be useful for gathering information from grantees and beneficiaries at the community level.

Laura also noted that the Northwest Region Leadership Team is having a fall gathering on Sunday, November 12th for parishes across the region. This may be a good meeting for our parishioners to attend as the topic of transitioning parishes will be discussed in detail.

Wardens Report

Mary noted that the recent homecoming gathering had a very positive effect on our parishioners.

Rector's Report

Stewardship: November 19 will be Stewardship/Appreciation Sunday, and the deadline for pledges for next year. Letters with pledge envelopes will be sent to all parishioners by November 4th. These letters will be personalized based upon the parishioner's pledging history. All letters will stress the importance of sending pledge cards back by November 19th to create a realistic going-in budget for next year. The Stewardship Committee will also make personal one-on-one appeals as necessary.

Nominating Committee: Camille Gillespie has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee as Penny Bardel has stepped down.

Closing Prayer

Geoff closed the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting Adjournment

Geoff adjourned the meeting at 12:22PM

NEXT MEETING: November 19th at 11:30AM

Submitted by Laura Daly