

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**  
**November 12, 2023**  
**Held In-Person**

**In Attendance:** Rebecca Bent, Worth Bracken, Mary Davis, Veronique Dulack, Fr. Hahneman, Andris Kalnins, Susan McFeely, Jay Bauer, Joseph Claro

**Excused:** Michael Del Nin, Sara Coles, Laura Daly

Geoff called the meeting to order at 11:35AM

**Opening Prayer**

Geoff opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Wine and Cheese Discussion & the Rectory**

Reverend Robert (Woody) Woodrooffe joined the Vestry at the beginning of the meeting. Mary began the meeting stating that St. John's will be issued a tax assessment next year because the rectory is currently rented. Mary spoke to the Washington tax authority about obtaining an exemption: we are eligible for an exemption provided that the rectory is used by a not-for-profit or for affordable housing *or for church purposes*. Reverend Woodrooffe discussed the status of low-income housing development in Washington and efforts that can be made by St. John's church. Reverend Woodrooffe suggested that the Vestry speak to Chris Charles regarding potential not-for-profit or low-income use of the rectory. Geoff volunteered to contact Chris regarding a potential collaboration with St. John's.

**Voting on Minutes from October 15, 2023 Vestry Meeting**

The Vestry approved the minutes from our October 15, 2023 meeting. The minutes will be posted online and placed in the Parish House.

**Finance Report**

David provided the church finances which are included with these minutes. David pointed out that because the rectory lease term expires on October 1, 2024, the rectory will likely remain on the tax rolls for at least two years. Geoff noted that prior to November 1, 2023, the rectory was used for church storage and that this use may qualify for tax exemption.

In response to a question, David mentioned that there are still outstanding pledge amounts from 2022, but that collection of these pledges is unlikely. We currently have 100% vestry participation in the 2024 pledge drive.

**Property Report**

Susan reported that, as of November 1, 2023, the rectory has been rented for slightly less than one year, at a rental of \$3,500 per month. Susan stated that our new tenant will be paying 42k in rent per year (plus all utilities, which will save St. John's an additional 12k per year in costs that would otherwise be carried by the church). In addition, we are receiving 14k for use of the parish hall as a yoga studio. Mary stated that the tax assessment discussed earlier will be roughly 8k-10k. The Vestry expressed its gratitude to Susan and the property committee in facilitating the rental.

Susan reported that the rectory windows have been paid and are at the church. Installation is to be arranged in the coming weeks, but Susan hopes that they will be installed before the end of the year.

Susan commended our current staff (Dawn, Joan, Jane, and Dave) and proposed a bonus for all four as well as an hourly wage increase.

A motion was made for a \$5.00 increase for all four (Dawn, Joan, Jane, and Dave) beginning January 1, 2024 and a total year-end bonus of \$1,300.00 to be distributed among the four. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Holiday Fete**

Susan announced that we have three angel donations at \$1,000 and Carolyn McDonald volunteered to pay for the champagne reception. In addition, Susan stated that St. John's received numerous event offerings and donations to sell at the Holiday Fete. Susan pointed out that we did not do mailings this year and are instead relying on digital messaging and that yard signs advertising the event will be placed throughout town next week. Susan also noted that the Gunnery has agreed to move their holiday event to Saturday Dec 2 so as not to conflict with the Holiday Fete.

### **Wardens Report: November 4<sup>th</sup> Parish Gathering: Wine, Cheese, and Conversation Discussion**

Mary spoke of the good showing we had at the event, approximately 25 parishioners. Mary noted that many attendees would have preferred that the event be scheduled after church service. Mary stated that Geoff was considered our biggest strength by attendees. Mary discussed the helpful discussion Geoff raised during the event regarding the potential use of a joint rector with another church. The Vestry agreed to further discuss this issue in 2024.

Mary also pointed out that the music program was discussed by most parishioners during the event and highlighted specific objections (some attendees stated that the music was not participatory enough, too Latin, and/or unfamiliar). Other members of the Vestry noted that these positions were not shared by all who attended the parish gathering.

Mary added that the that the homecoming event was very much enjoyed by those at the parish gathering and that there was a desire among the participants for a spring event. The Vestry agreed that the homecoming event should be held every year and that we should continue discussions for a spring event.

### **Rector's Report**

Stewardship: We will continue discussions throughout November and December.

Community Events: Geoff stated that the blessing of the animals was very well attended (with half of the attendees being non-parishioners) indicating that we should do more community outreach events. Geoff added that we should continue to organize more events with our neighbors. Examples discussed by members of the Vestry include a dance class and/or hosting a town party (Susan stated that Rod Pleasants would agree to loan his large barn for such an event). Members of the Vestry agreed that any of these ideas could be used as a potential spring event.

### **Closing Prayer**

Geoff closed the meeting with a prayer.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

Geoff adjourned the meeting at 12:52PM.

**NEXT MEETING:** December 17, 2023 at 11:30AM

Submitted by Joseph Claro