

**St. John's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
January 21, 2024**

In attendance: Ms. Davis, Mr. Kalnins, Ms. Coles, Mr. Del Nin, Mr. Bracken, Ms. Dulack, Ms. McFeely. Ms. Lambert

Absent, Fr. Hahneman, Ms. Daly, Mr. Gillespie, Mr. Claro and Dr. Bauer.

Special guests: Susan Markert representing the nominating committee.

Opening Prayer: Sarah Coles (with attribution to Laura Daly)

Report of the Nominating Committee: The slate was presented by Susan Markert as reported in the Parish Annual Report. All Vestry members were in support of the slate. We will anticipate Worth Bracken joining Mary Davis as Warden, and two new Vestry members M.B. Witt and Justin Ormand (serving as clerk). Each will be joining us in February (after election by the members of the Parish at the Annual Meeting).

Acceptance of the Minutes of the last meeting: All were in favor.

Finance report: There was discussion of the results of 2023 and agreement that we have brought the budget into structural balance (pledges and other revenues balancing the expenses) but the budget was tight. It was explained that the budget is a cash budget not an accrual budget. There was also discussion of the Balance Sheet and the accounting of interest and appreciation in the endowment as reflected in the balance sheet asset accounts. Further discussion ensued on the generally accepted practice of limiting endowment draws to 5% of the past 12 month rolling average. We are observing that methodology.

The 2024 budget as presented was adopted unanimously. This budget is reflected in the Annual Report to the Parish.

Report on Fundraising: The number reflected in the 2023 December 31 year-end numbers does not include the anticipated Fete dinner payments. The Fete revenue actually exceeds \$87,000. The budget is a cash budget. The remaining Fete proceeds will be reflected in the 2024 revenue line.

A fulsome discussion then ensued on the fundraising number of \$30,000 placeholder in the 2024 forecasted budget. The Vestry was in favor of continuing to secure the first Friday in December as the St. John's Fete preview party with silent auction raises a big portion of the total Fete proceeds (over \$50,000) and does not require all the time and talent of a bazaar. The planning any events was delegated back to the Fete /

fundraising committee to explore other options including a spring Couture Boutique, a sports equipment exchange, a pre-Christmas cookie event, etc.

There was consensus that the Homecoming event at Waldingfield Farm should become an annual event, and this was NOT a fund raiser...it was a friend-raiser.

There was Vestry agreement that Fundraising activities should be spread across the calendar, if possible, to alleviate the cash shortage in the summer and to maintain momentum. There was comfort that the \$30,000 in the forecast was achievable and probably could be surpassed.

Report on the Rectory: The amount of income reflected in the budget forecast is related to the current lease. It is possible the tenant will renew, or another tenant can be found. A new washer and dryer are needed for the Rector, and a contract with Bartlett Tree to continue in 2024 for the Beech and Spruce Trees on front lawn of the Rectory and Church was approved.

There was discussion of keeping our interim Priest as long as possible as well as Tom Brand. However, there is a need to understand and prepare for the future. We need more lay participation in the services. Today's service, with Ann Hodgman as preacher, and Rebeca Bent as officiant, was an excellent example of lay leadership. We need to find others to participate. In addition, we need to prepare and engage the parish in the future planning.

There was a decision to hold another set of round table discussions following the 10 am service on April 7...the week after Easter...including lunch. (This date was changed from early March to avoid Lent and allow for Easter attendance to announce the gathering on the following weekend.)

There was no further discussion.

Sarah Coles led the closing prayer (attribution to Laura Daly)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Mary Davis.