

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

In Attendance: Fr. Hahneman, Ms. Davis, Mr. Kalnins, Mr. Del Nin, Ms. Witt, Mr. Bracken, Ms. Dulack, Ms. McFeely, Mr. Gillespie

Absent/Excused: Ms. Bent, Ms. Coles, Ms. Daly, Mr. Ormand

Opening Prayer

Fr. Hahneman opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous vestry meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Gillespie reported that the rectory lease was terminated, but that a new lease with the Gunn School is under negotiation, which should compensate for loss of income due to the lease termination, as well as restoring the local property tax exemption.

Ms. Dulack inquired about the allocation of the contributions received for Easter flowers and music, which resulted in discussion of that topic.

Property Report

Ms. McFeely noted that replacement windows for the rectory have been successfully installed, and that a new washer and dryer have been installed. She explained that the former tenant is suffering from cancer and was admitted to a treatment program in Los Angeles. As a result of this situation, he asked to terminate the lease, and the parish agreed. The lease termination has created the opportunity to accelerate discussions with the Gunn School about a possible long-term rental of the rectory for use by employees of the School. There was a meeting on April 19 among the Head and CFO of the School, Fr. Hahneman, Ms. Davis, Mr. Bracken, Ms. McFeely and Mr. Gillespie to discuss the potential for such a lease. The vestry approved the negation of such an arrangement with the School by Ms. Davis on behalf of the parish, and it seems likely that she will be able to conclude a successful negotiation in the near future.

Ms. Davis agreed to consult with the Town about restoring the property tax exemption for the rectory, assuming that the lease with the School is concluded.

Foundation Report

Mr. Bracken reported that there has been progress regarding establishing the scope of a potential restoration project for the masonry on the church and related capital repairs. He described a meeting on Friday April 19, among himself, Peter Talbot, a local architect, Alec Purvis, a representative from WJE, which firm did a comprehensive report of the condition of the parish campus prior to the last capital campaign, and Benjamin Pear, a local mason. There was a consensus that significant work will be

required, and that this will be a multi-year project. It was noted that some stones are in danger of falling off the building, although there appears to be no immediate risk of injury in the entrance areas. It was suggested that scaffolding be erected in the vicinity of the side chapel to conduct some exploratory work, because the extent of the required work cannot be ascertained from an exterior, surface inspection. Mr. Bracken stressed that although this will be a large and costly project, it is an opportunity for the parish and the wider community to work together on an important project for the parish and Town.

#### Warden's Report

Ms. Davis discussed the scheduling of a parish meeting and luncheon following the 10:00 AM mass on May 5, to discuss the state of the parish and plans for the future. This might also serve as an occasion to recognize various groups and individuals who have been making important contributions to the life of the parish.

#### Priest's Report

Fr. Hahneman described the recently conducted "spring training" conducted by the diocese, and he recommended participation in future offerings. He mentioned that he has been named as an alternate delegate for the General Convention, which will, among other things, elect a new Presiding Bishop. He mentioned a flyer that is being circulated about summer music, involving parish participation. He also mentioned his participation as the ecumenical officer of the diocese, and his involvement in discussions among the Episcopal Church and other mainline Protestant denominations about cooperation at various levels.

Fr. Hahneman closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, David Gillespie