

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes of the February 18, 2024, Vestry Meeting**  
**Held In-Person at Laura Daly's Home**

**In Attendance:** Rebecca Bent, Worth Bracken, Sara Coles, Laura Daly, Mary Davis, Michael Del Nin, Veronique Dulack, David Gillespie, Fr. Hahneman, Susan McFeely, MB Witt

**Excused:** Andris Kalnins, Justin Ormand

**Opening Prayer**

Geoff opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Voting on Minutes from January 11, 2024, Vestry Meeting**

The minutes were approved. Regarding our current practice of limiting endowment draws to 5% of the past 12 month rolling average, Geoff asked the Vestry to consider using a 3-year rolling average. The January 11 minutes have been posted on our site and sent to the bookkeeper.

**Finance Report**

David submitted a review of our finances for the month of January. As we are still waiting for all the 2023 Holiday Fete income to come in, we needed to draw \$40,000 from our endowment for capital improvements, staff salaries and monthly bills. Pending Fete income will be sent in as dates for auctioned dinners are set.

**Property Report**

Susan reported that the installation of the rectory windows is almost complete, and the tenant is pleased with the results. A new washer/dryer is needed. While we have received the mill rate for our property taxes, we are still waiting for the town to send us the assessment.

**Nominations for the Foundation Board**

The following nominations were unanimously approved: Veronique Dulack, Alec Purves, Rod Pleasants. Mary has stepped down as President of the Board and Worth Bracken will succeed her. Mary will continue to be involved in an advisory role.

**Wardens' Report**

Mary updated the Vestry on the Foundation's January meeting; The Foundation has continued to serve as the financial umbrella for the Washington Refugee Resettlement Project (WRRP) and has maintained the accounting books and provided financial transactions as needed. The WRRP is not currently pursuing its own 501(C)3. The Afghan family the WRRP helped is now self-sufficient. There are remaining funds in this separate account, and their use will be determined in 2024. The major church restoration projects still to be completed: repointing, repair of cement moldings, the stained-glass windows. The Foundation is exploring the State of CT's Historic Restoration Fund to help with restoration expenses. The Vestry recommended that the Foundation review the current survey of needed repairs to all buildings. This assessment will also help to categorize types of repairs (maintenance vs. capital improvements). Mary indicated that we might be able to get a planning grant to do this evaluation and will investigate.

**Rector's Report**

Approval of Annual Parochial Report: The Vestry gave Geoff approval to work with Jane on final revisions and to submit the report without additional Vestry approval. The report is due March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Holy Week Services: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Stations of the Cross at Noon, Easter Sunday (10AM only). MB will oversee the Easter egg hunt; Laura will oversee Easter Coffee Hour. The Vestry approved a budget of up to \$500 for Easter flowers.

Geoff ended the meeting with a prayer.

Submitted by Laura Daly