

St. John's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
March 26, 2023
Held In-Person

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

Absent: Worth Bracken, Hunter Brown, Joseph Claro, Michael Del Nin, David Gillespie,

Opening Prayer

Fr. Hahneman opened the meeting with a prayer.

Voting on Minutes from February Vestry Meeting

The Vestry approved the minutes without revisions. The minutes have been posted online and by the office door.

Finance Committee Report

David emailed a financial report prior to the meeting. David indicated that we are “rapidly spending through the operating account cash and will soon start to burn through a significant amount of money from the endowment, well in excess of the budgeted amount and a prudent 5% draw. The parish has a major problem on the income side, both in terms of the number of pledgers, and the amount of individual pledges.” This situation is exacerbated by the fact that we currently have no rental income from the rectory.

We are waiting for 4 pledges to come in but need to continue communications to the parish to increase pledging/amount of pledges. Personal touches and thank you notes were deemed important to the success of this effort.

To address a potential shortfall in projected receipts for 2023, the Vestry approved amending the 2023 budget to increase the amount of operating costs that may be funded from the endowment from \$75,000 to \$100,000. This \$25,000 increase over the originally budgeted amount for 2023 corresponds to the \$25,000 endowment draw authorized and budgeted for 2022, but which was not taken in 2022.

Soon after June 30th, The Vestry will send a letter to parishioners detailing the current financial state of the church. The Vestry will also consider doing an additional appeal.

Property Committee Update

Energy Audit

Geoff reported that the agreement has been signed, and work will begin in 6-8 weeks.

Rectory

The goal is to get the rectory ready to list as a rental property by Memorial Day Weekend. In order to accomplish this, numerous work projects need to be completed:

Windows need to be painted and repaired so they can be opened.

Water seepage in basement needs to be remedied, which appears to be basic capital infrastructure work.

The Vestry recommended that the SJ Foundation cover the \$16,000 needed to remediate the water seepage in the basement. Mary will ask the Foundation for a vote on this expenditure after she, Rod, and Veronique tour

the premises. If the Foundation votes to approve this expenditure (which is expected), work will begin immediately.

As for the windows, the Vestry did not approve replacement, but approved repairs. Cost for this will come out of the current maintenance budget.

The Vestry also approved a motion for Susan to begin to speak with Klemm about renting the rectory for the summer.

Grounds

Susan noted that the grounds need spring cleaning (weeding, picking up of twigs/branches). To save money for this work, Laura suggested that Rumsey students might be available as they volunteer for community work. Laura will investigate.

Legacy Society

The letter to parishioners has been submitted to Mary for final comments and should go out by the end of June. Richard Snider has offered to meet with parishioners singly or in groups to explain legacy giving.

Upcoming Social Gatherings

Laura is busy with planning the Easter egg hunt and schedule for receptions after services.

2023 Holiday Fete

Dates are 12/1 and 12/2. We can use the commercial kitchen at the Washington Senior Center in order to have the return of SJ Larder, chaired this year by Ann Hodgeman.

The Couture Boutique will also return this year.

Wardens Report

Mary and Jay had nothing to report.

Priest-In – Charge Report

Geoff spoke of the many courses offered through Spring Training in April (online and in-person). He also reminded the Vestry that Safe Training is available on ZOOM in order to keep our Safe Training Certificates up to date.

Geoff also mentioned the May 4th lunch for Episcopal Church Women in Connecticut.

Concerns

The Vestry did not raise any concerns, other than the fact that schedules prevent a Vestry meeting in April.

Closing Prayer

Geoff closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next Vestry Meeting

May 7th, after coffee hour.

Submitted by Laura Daly