

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**  
**December 15, 2024**

**In Attendance:** Fr. Hahneman, Ms. Davis, Mr. Bracken, Ms. Coles, Mr. Kalnins, Ms. Daly, Ms. Dulack, Ms. Witt, Mr. Ormand, Ms. Bent, Ms. McFeely, Mr. Del Nin

**Absent/Excused:** Mr. Gillespie

**Opening Prayer**

Ms. Daly opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous Vestry meeting were approved, as amended to update the attendances.

**Warden's Report**

Ms. Davis reported that the Vestry had voted in executive session for Fr. Hahneman to be installed as St. John's permanent Rector. Mr. Bracken reported that he had written to the Canon for Congregations and Transitions for the Episcopal Church in Connecticut recommending the Fr. Hahneman be installed as Rector and requesting. A service of installation led by a Bishop must occur, and Mr. Bracken reported that he is hopefully this service can be held on January 5, 2025, as Bishop Laura Ahrens will already be visiting on that date.

Ms. Davis also noted that pledges were running short and that the Vestry would need to do some outreach.

**Report on the Fête**

Ms. McFeely reported that gross revenue from the Christmas Fête is expected to be more than \$80,000 (with expenses at \$17,000). The Vestry expressed its gratitude to Ms. McFeely and Ms. Witt for all of the work that went into making the Fête a success.

Ms. McFeely noted that earlier access to the Parish Hall would have been helpful, and the Vestry agreed. The Vestry also approved Ms. McFeely's request to have Joan Burgess come in once a week to assist with Fête follow up, given Ms. Roselio's absence.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report for the month of November 2024 was approved. There was discussion of compensation for the Church's staff; Ms. Davis stated that decision-making on that subject will need to wait until the next Vestry meeting, when the Vestry will have a draft budget for review.

## **Foundation Report**

Mr. Bracken reported that physical work on the trial masonry renovation project is complete, and was completed under budget. An inspection of the tower will be conducted, after which the engineer will submit a final report and recommendation for additional work. Mr. Bracken noted Peter Talbot's indispensable contribution to the project.

Ms. Witt suggested a community fundraiser to raise funds for the additional work, given the historic significance of the Church building in the Town of Washington. Mr. Bracken agreed that a fundraiser would make sense at the appropriate time. He is meeting with Conservation Connecticut in January 2025 to discuss grants, and will be getting the Foundation's website up and running as well.

## **Altar Guild Report**

Ms. Witt reported that altar guild expenses for hangings for lent would amount to approximately \$5,000. Ms. Witt plans to seek donations for this expense.

## **Priest's Report**

Fr. Hahneman informed the Vestry the Nominating Committee had been formed to present the slate of officers, Vestry members, and diocesan delegates at the Annual Meeting for 2025. Camille Gillespie will chair the committee and will be joined by Susie Markert and Virginia Reynolds. Fr. Hahneman then request permission from the Vestry to form a Budget Committee to work on the budget for 2025, which the Vestry approved. Messrs. Del Nin, Kalnins, and Gillespie will sit on that committee.

Fr. Hahneman reminded the Vestry that Lessons & Carols would be held later in the day. He also reminded the Vestry of Bishop Laura's visit on January 5, 2025, with a reception and Vestry meeting with the Bishop to be held after mass. The Vestry agreed to hold the January meeting in 2025.

## **Conclusion**

There was no further discussion.

Fr. Hahneman closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Justin Ormand, Clerk.